

ANNUAL



MARVEL
COMICS
GROUP

25¢

72 BIG PAGES



STRANGE

IND.

TALES

ANNUAL

#2
1963

THE AMAZING
SPIDER-
MAN

FACE-TO-FACE
WITH...

THE
HUMAN
TORCH

THIS
LONG-AWAITED
EPIC-
LENGTH
THRILLER
IS ONLY
ONE OF THE
MANY
WONDERFUL
FEATURES
WITHIN
THESE
UNFORGETTABLE
PAGES!

THE MARVEL
COMICS GROUP
USHERS IN
THE
MARVEL AGE
OF
COMICS!

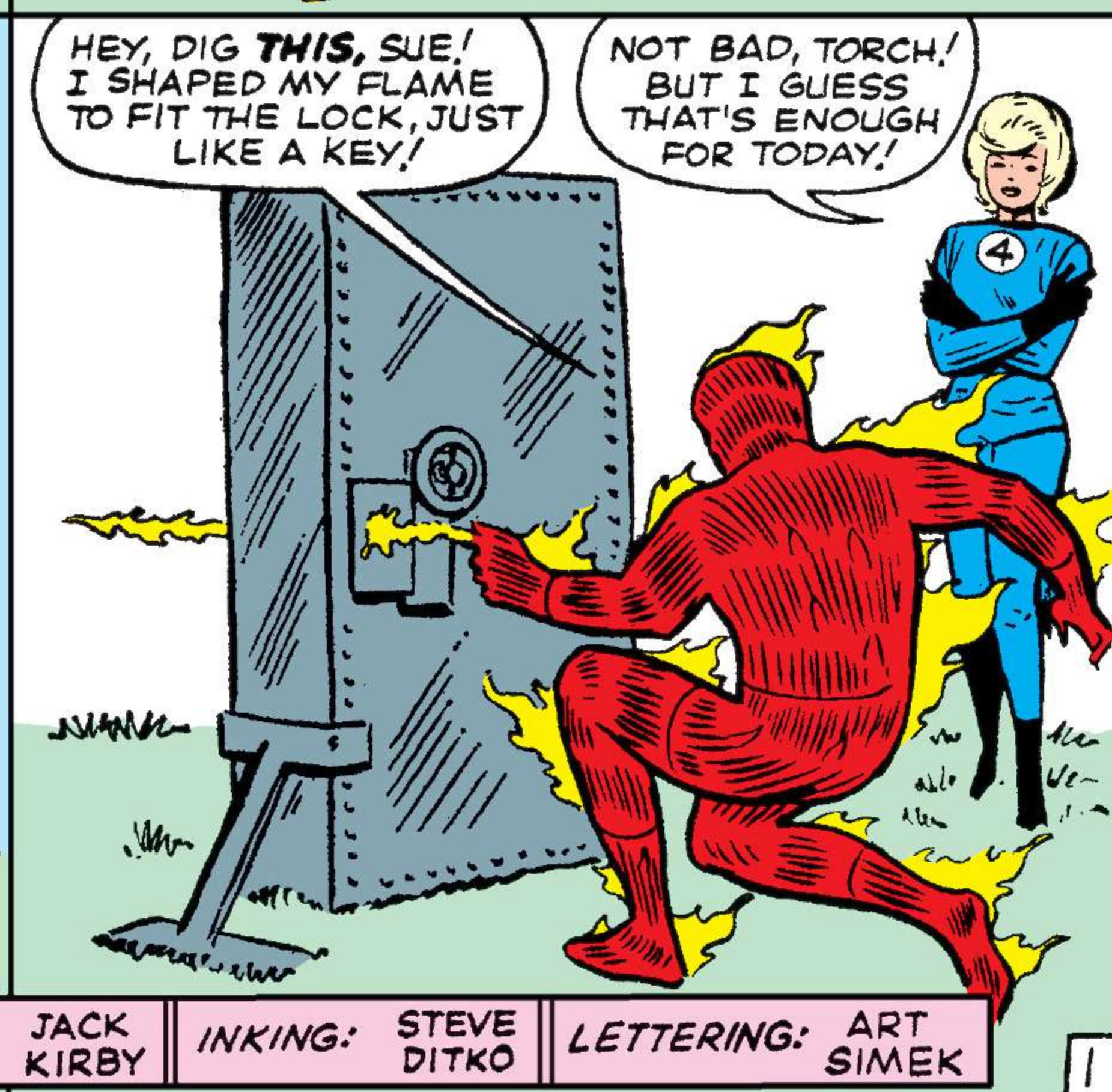
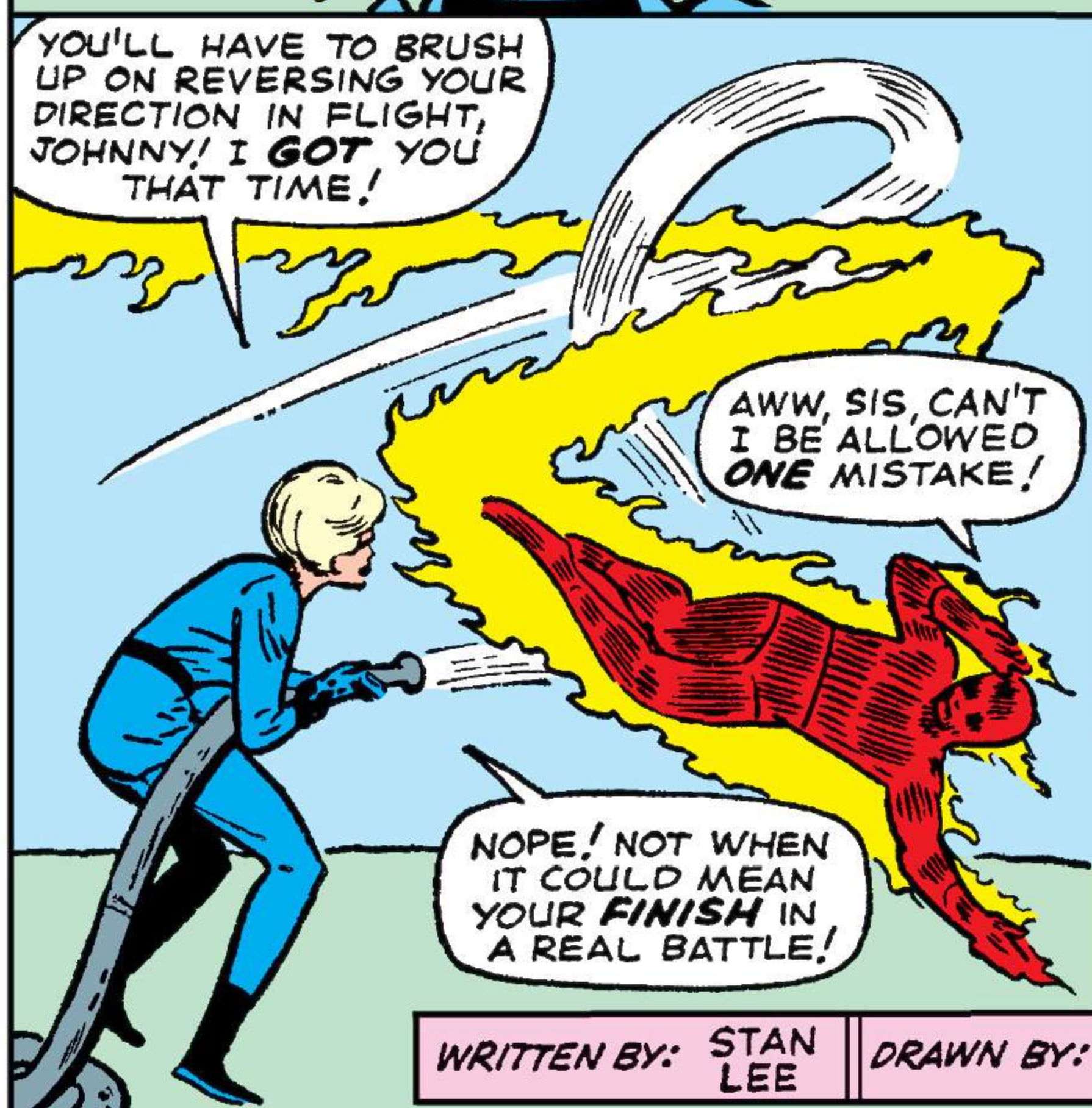
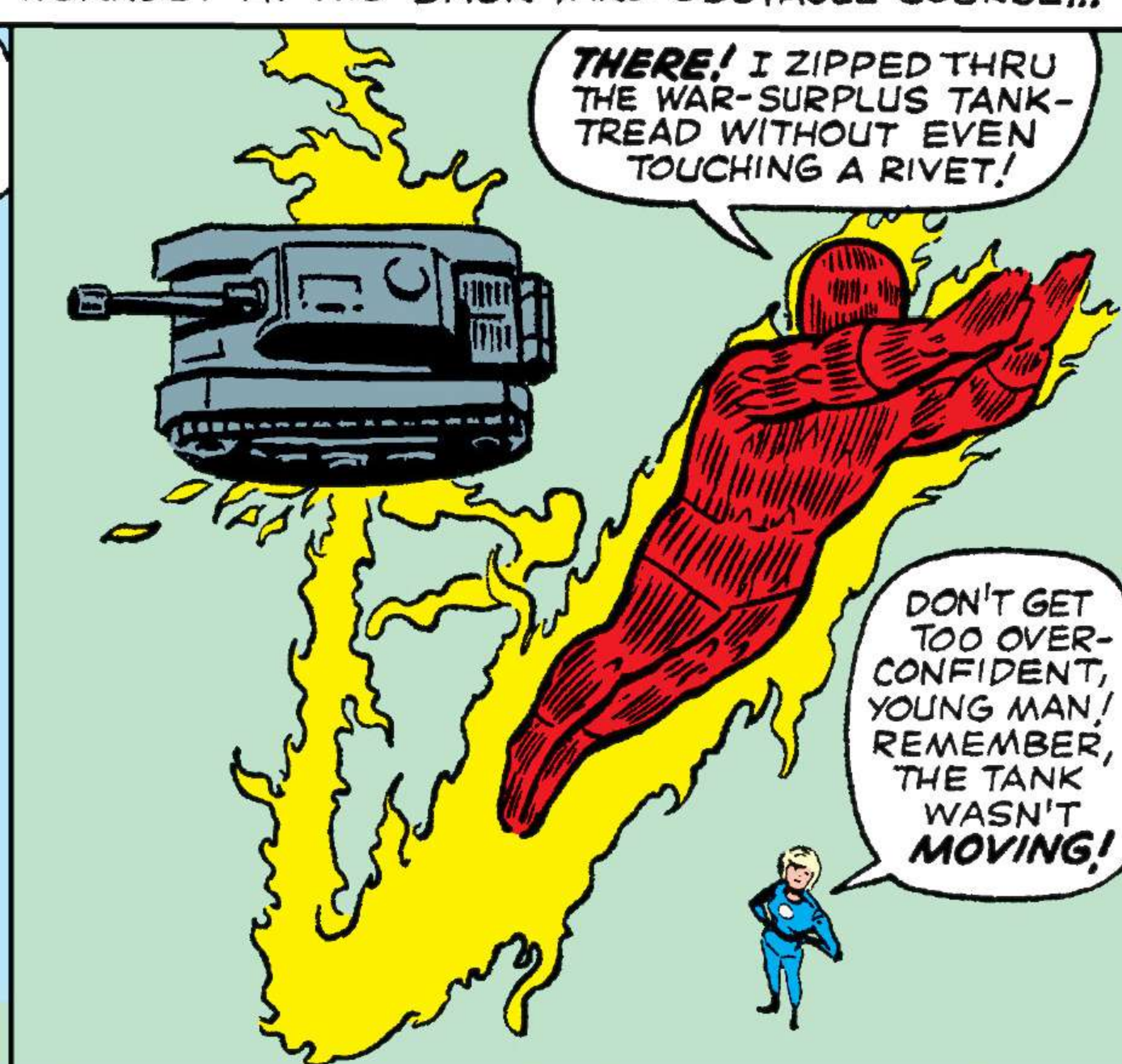
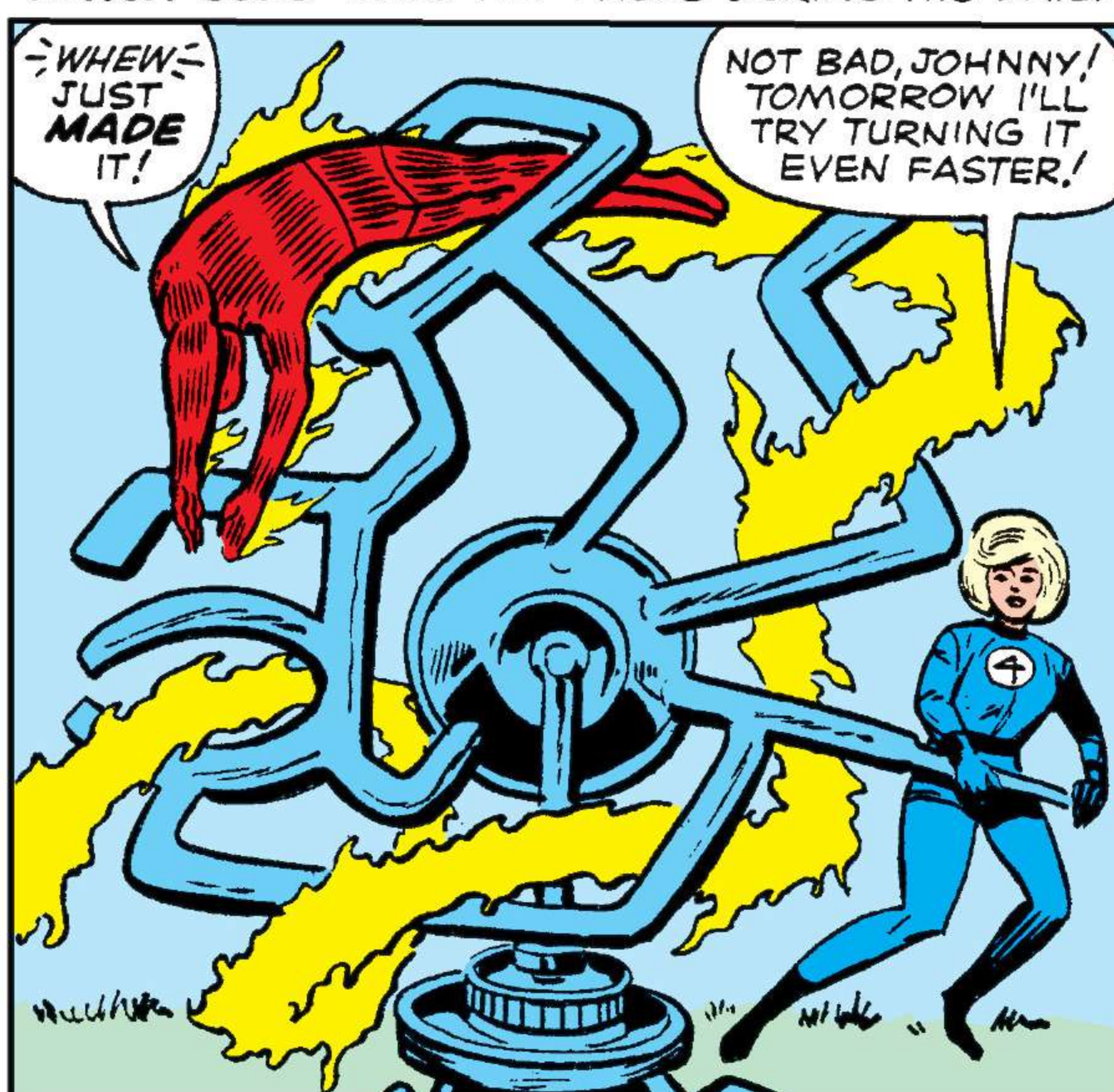


STRANGE TALES ANNUAL PRESENTS ONE OF THE MOST
EPIC THRILLERS OF ALL TIME!! THE DAZZLING

HUMAN TORCH,

ON THE TRAIL OF THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

AIDED BY HIS SISTER, SUE STORM (KNOWN PROFESSIONALLY AS **THE INVISIBLE GIRL**), THE **HUMAN TORCH** GOES THRU HIS PACES DURING HIS DAILY WORKOUT AT HIS BACK YARD OBSTACLE COURSE...



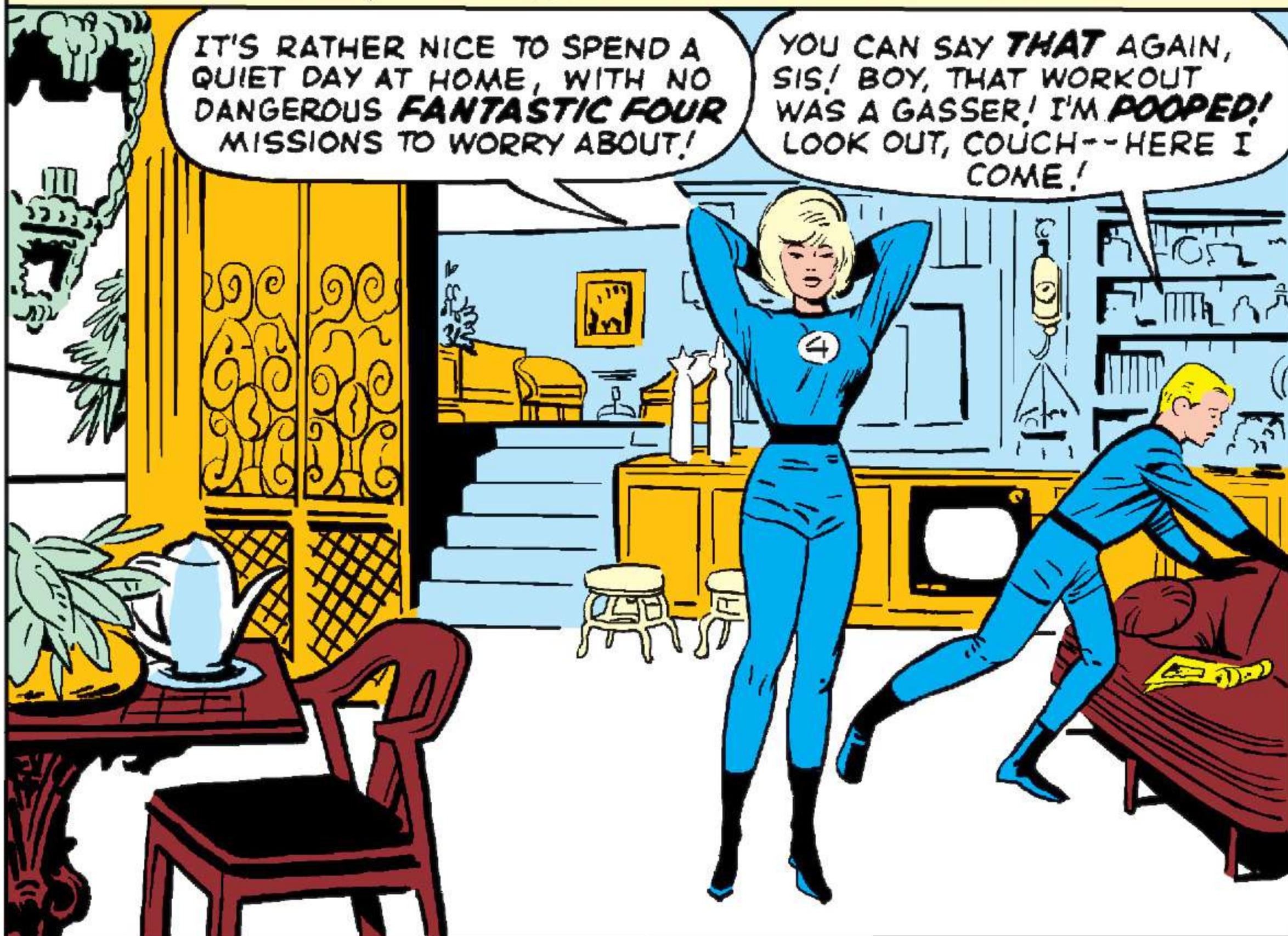
WRITTEN BY: STAN LEE

DRAWN BY: JACK KIRBY

INKING: STEVE DITKO

LETTERING: ART SIMEK

RETURNING TO THE LIVING-DINING AREA OF THEIR MODERN SPLIT-LEVEL HOME IN GLENVILLE, LONG ISLAND, THE TORCH AND HIS SISTER PREPARE FOR A LAZY, LEISURELY SATURDAY AFTERNOON...



IT'S RATHER NICE TO SPEND A QUIET DAY AT HOME, WITH NO DANGEROUS **FANTASTIC FOUR** MISSIONS TO WORRY ABOUT!

YOU CAN SAY *THAT* AGAIN, SIS! BOY, THAT WORKOUT WAS A GASSER! I'M **POOPED**! LOOK OUT, COUCH--HERE I COME!

FLAMIN' FIREBALLS! LOOKA *THIS*!

ALMOST THE WHOLE BLAMED ISSUE OF **LIVE** IS DEVOTED TO THAT SWELL-HEADED **SPIDER-MAN**!



WHERE DOES *HE* COME OFF GETTIN' ALL THAT PUBLICITY?? WHAT CAN *HE* DO THAT *I* CAN'T DO **BETTER**??



WELL, HE CAN GET MORE **HEADLINES**, FOR ONE THING!

SPIDER-MAN NETS BURGLARY RING

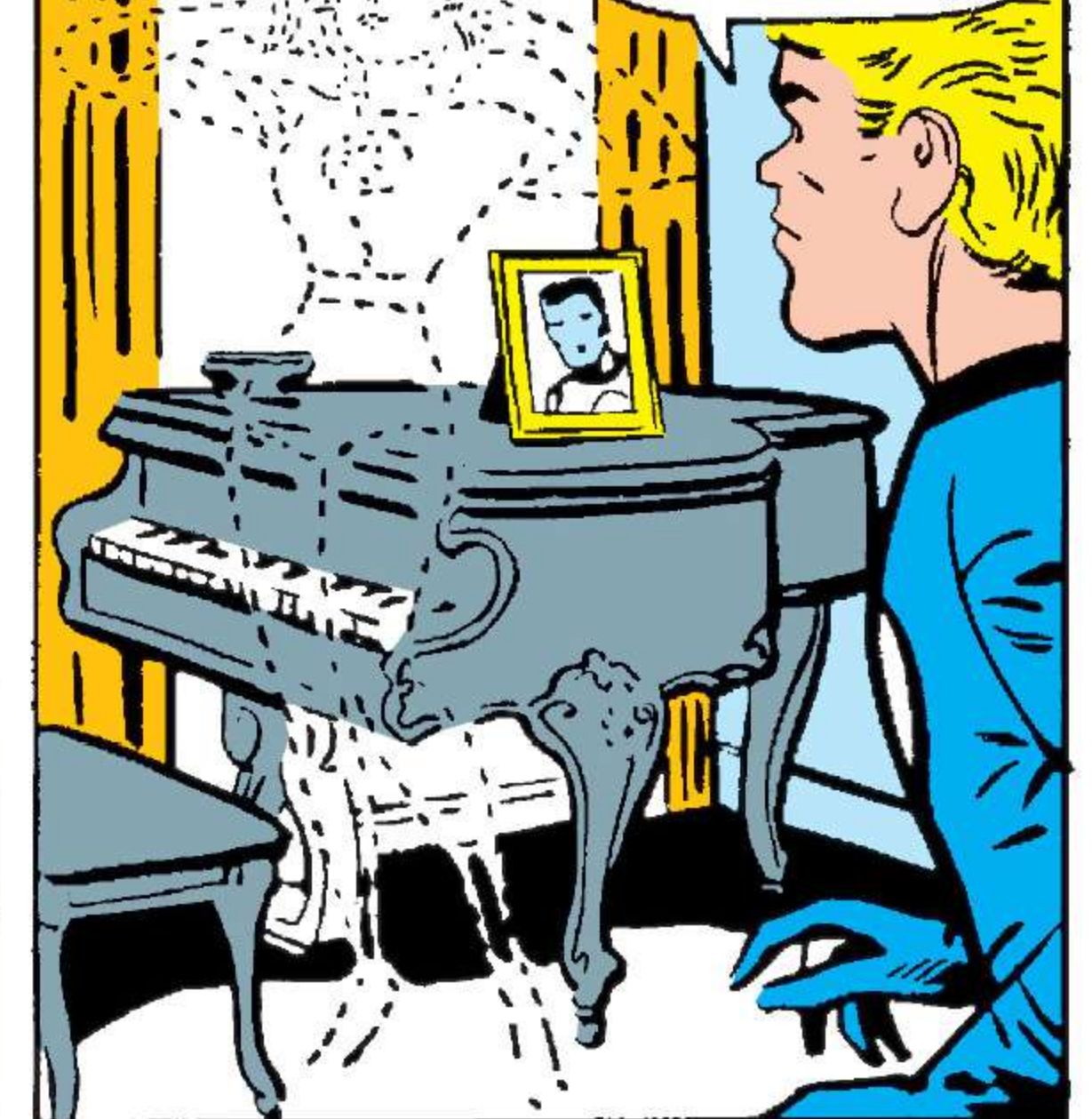
BOY! THAT REALLY **BUGS** ME!

WHEN *I* DO SOMETHIN' SENSATIONAL, THE **FANTASTIC FOUR** GETS THE CREDIT! BUT WHEN *THAT* CORNY CREEP DOES ANYTHING, EVERY PAPER AND MAG GIVES HIM A WRITE-UP!



IF YOU INTEND TO CONTINUE THAT CHILDISH TANTRUM, I'LL SIMPLY FADE AWAY!

YEAH? *YOU* WOULDN'T BE SO CALM IF THERE WAS A SPIDER-GIRL SOMEWHERE, STEALIN' YOUR THUNDER!



EVERY TIME I PICK UP A PAPER, IT'S "**SPIDER-MAN THIS--**" AND "**SPIDER-MAN THAT--**"!! BOY, THAT GUY MAKES ME **SIZZLE**! I'D GIVE **ANYTHING** FOR A CHANCE TO PROVE HE AINT SO HOT!

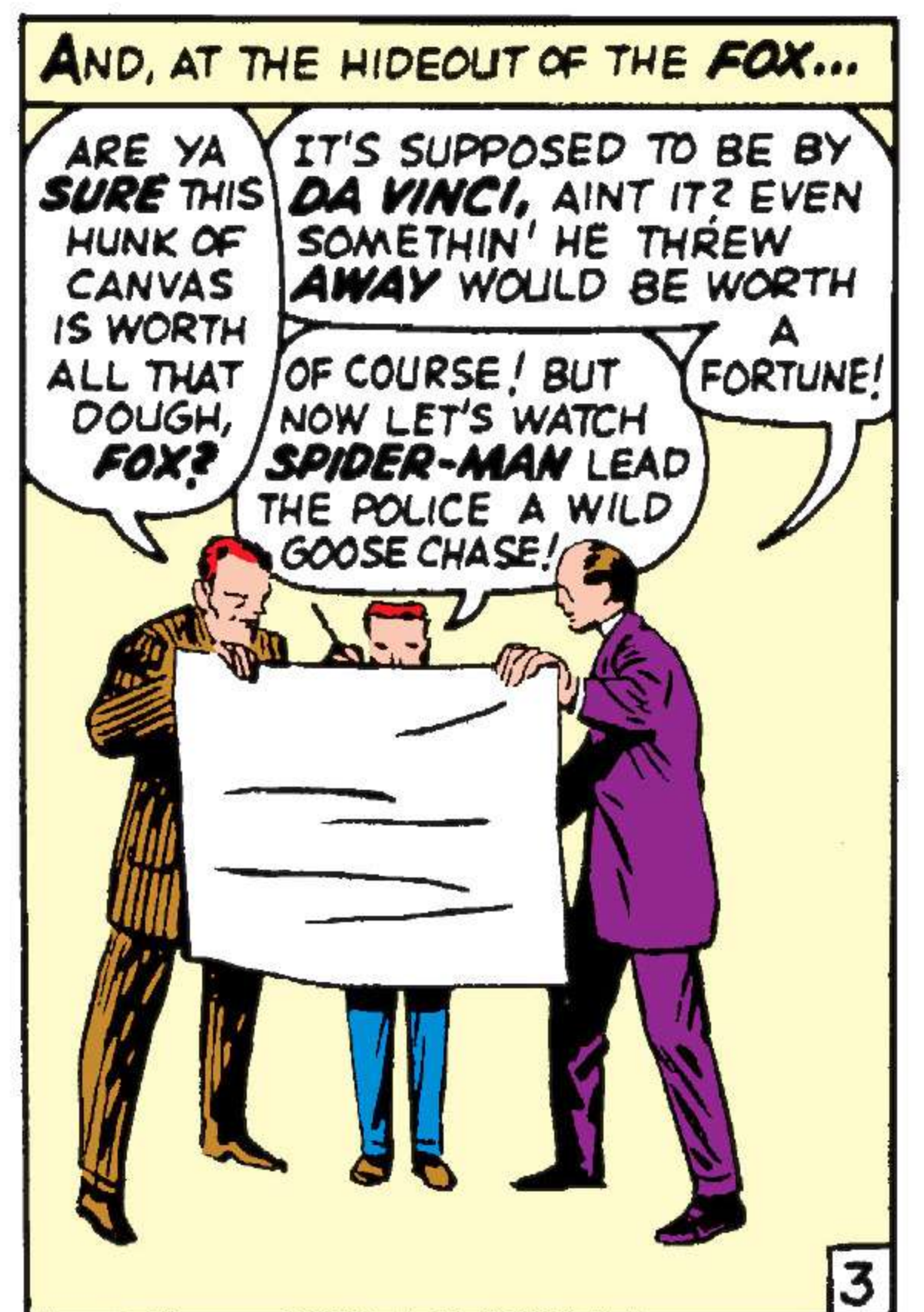
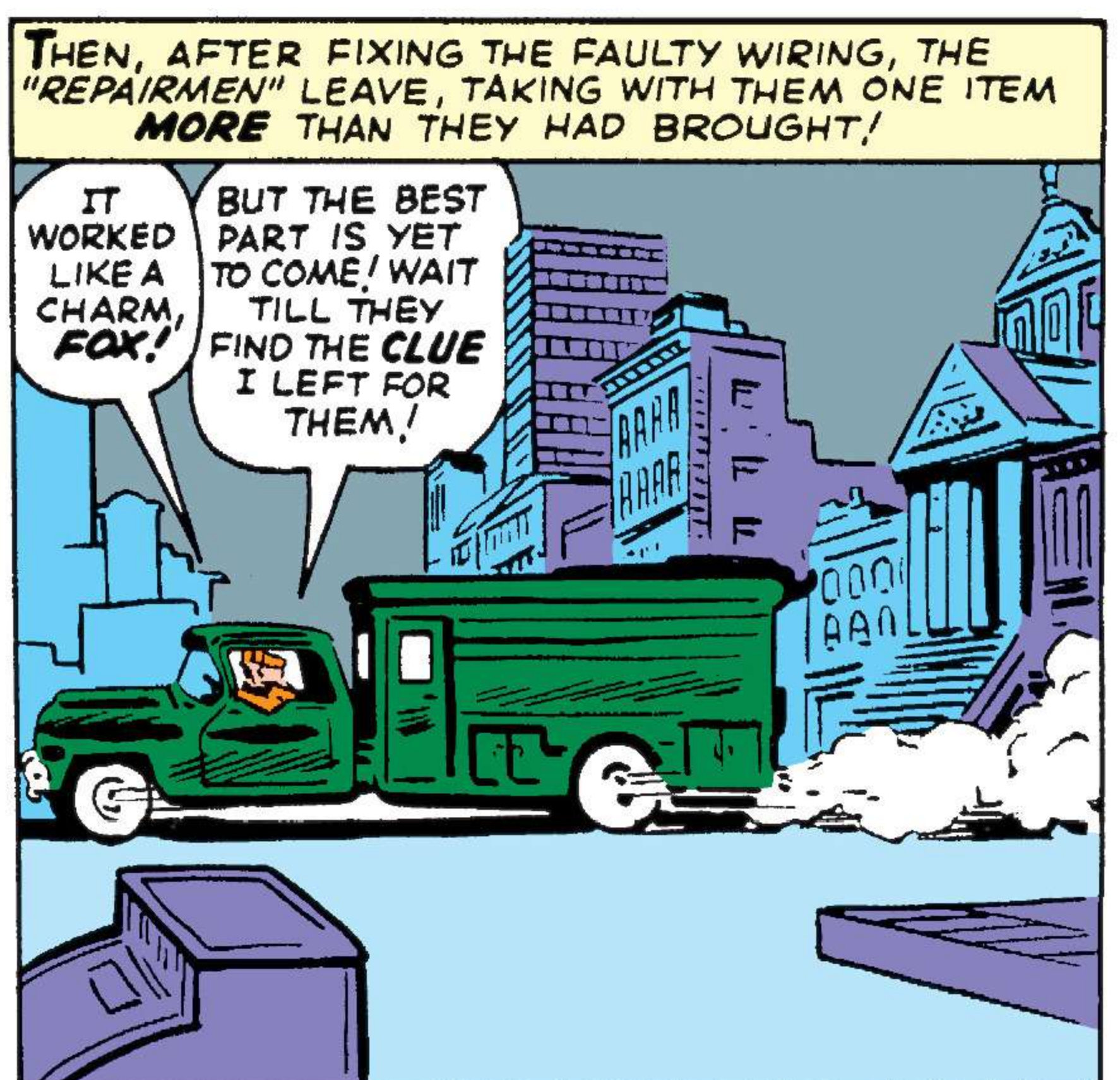
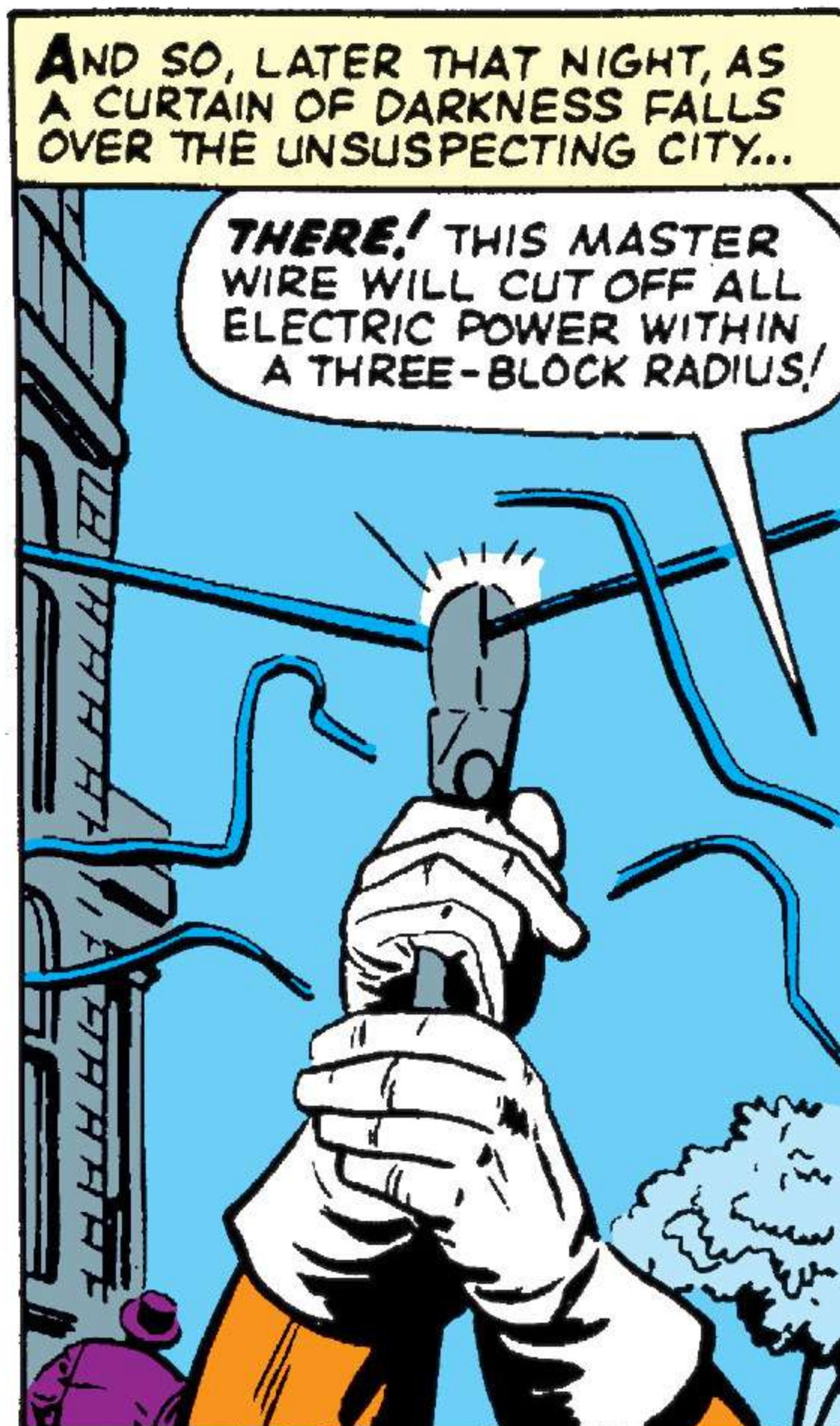


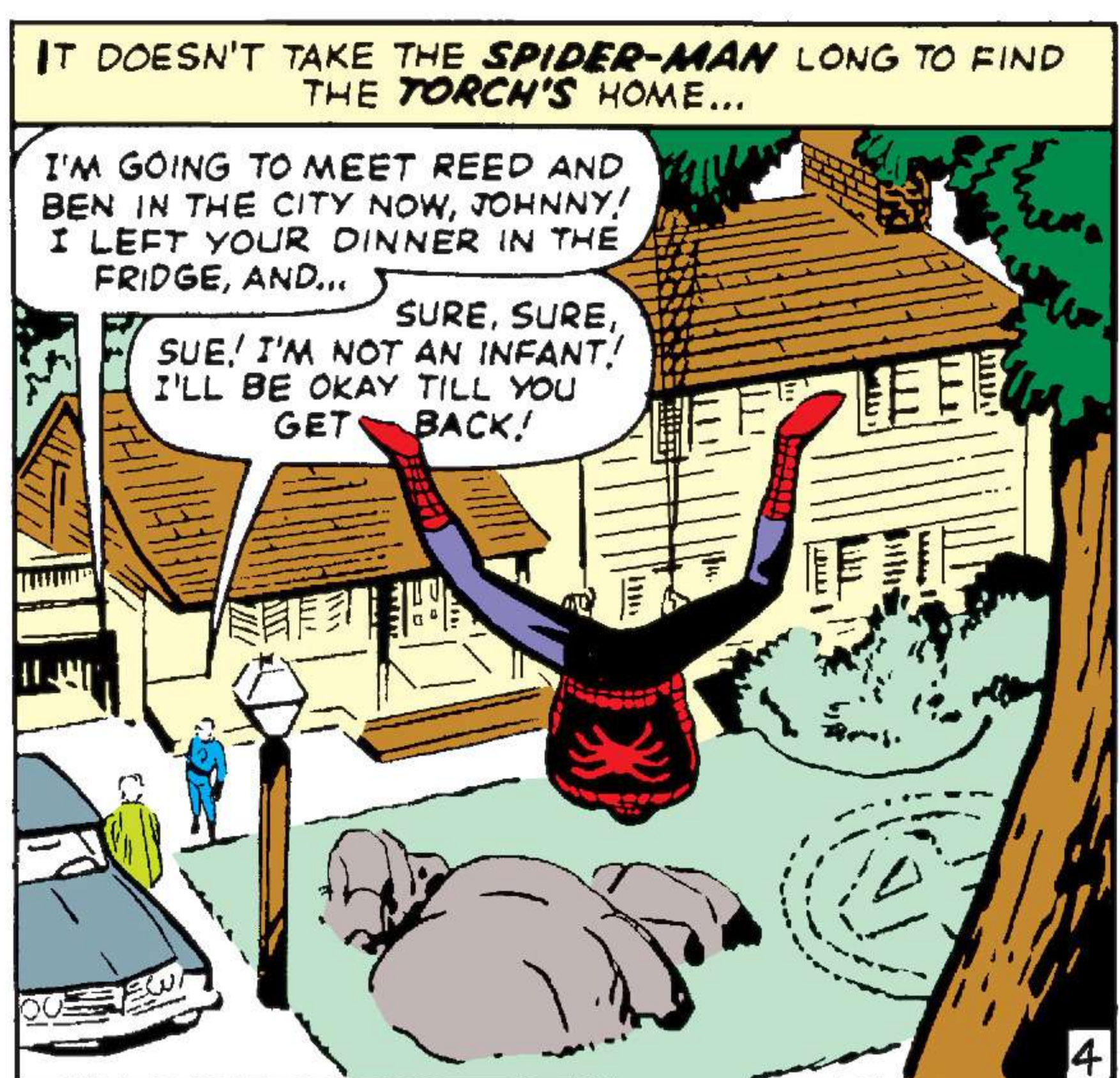
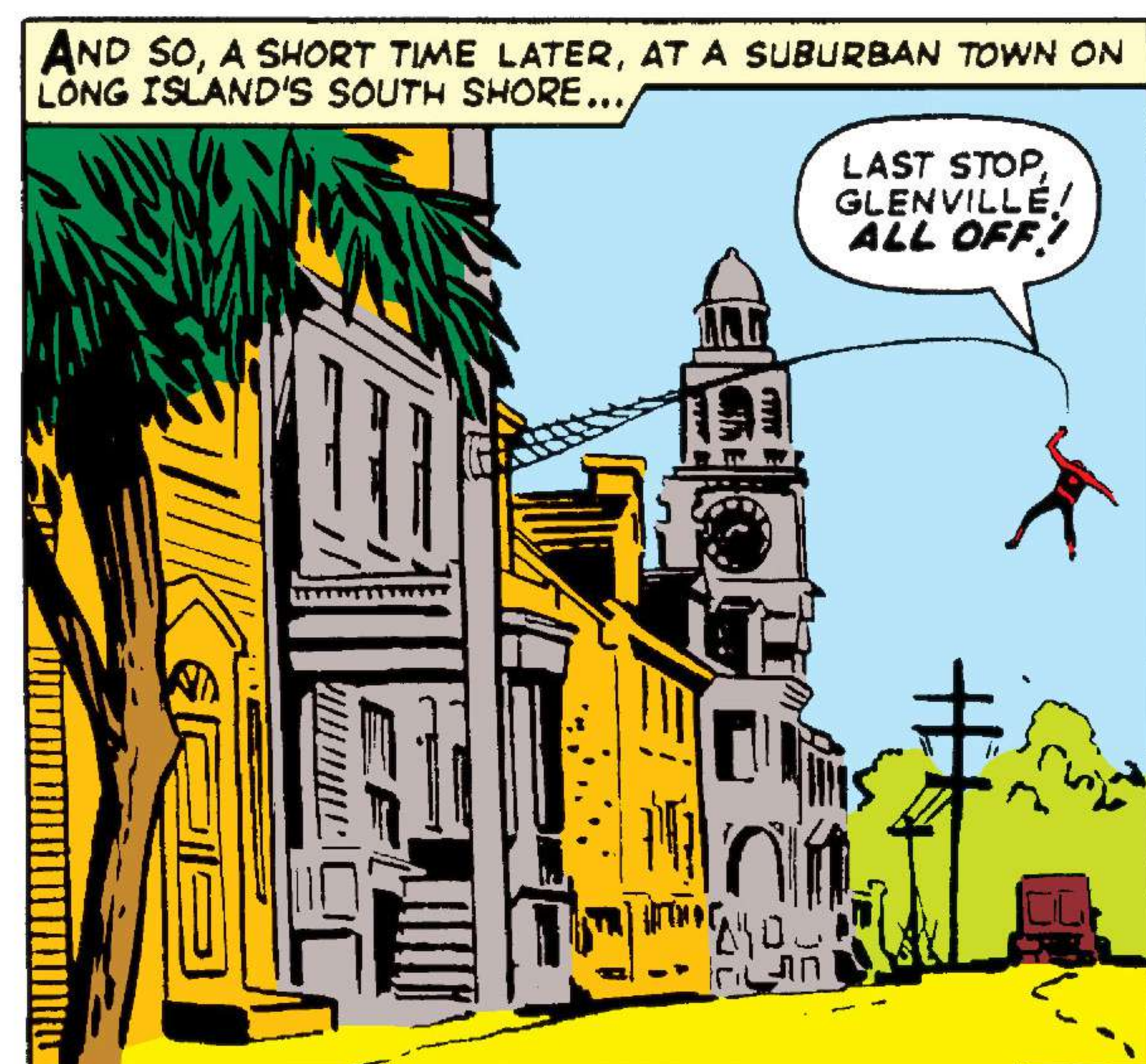
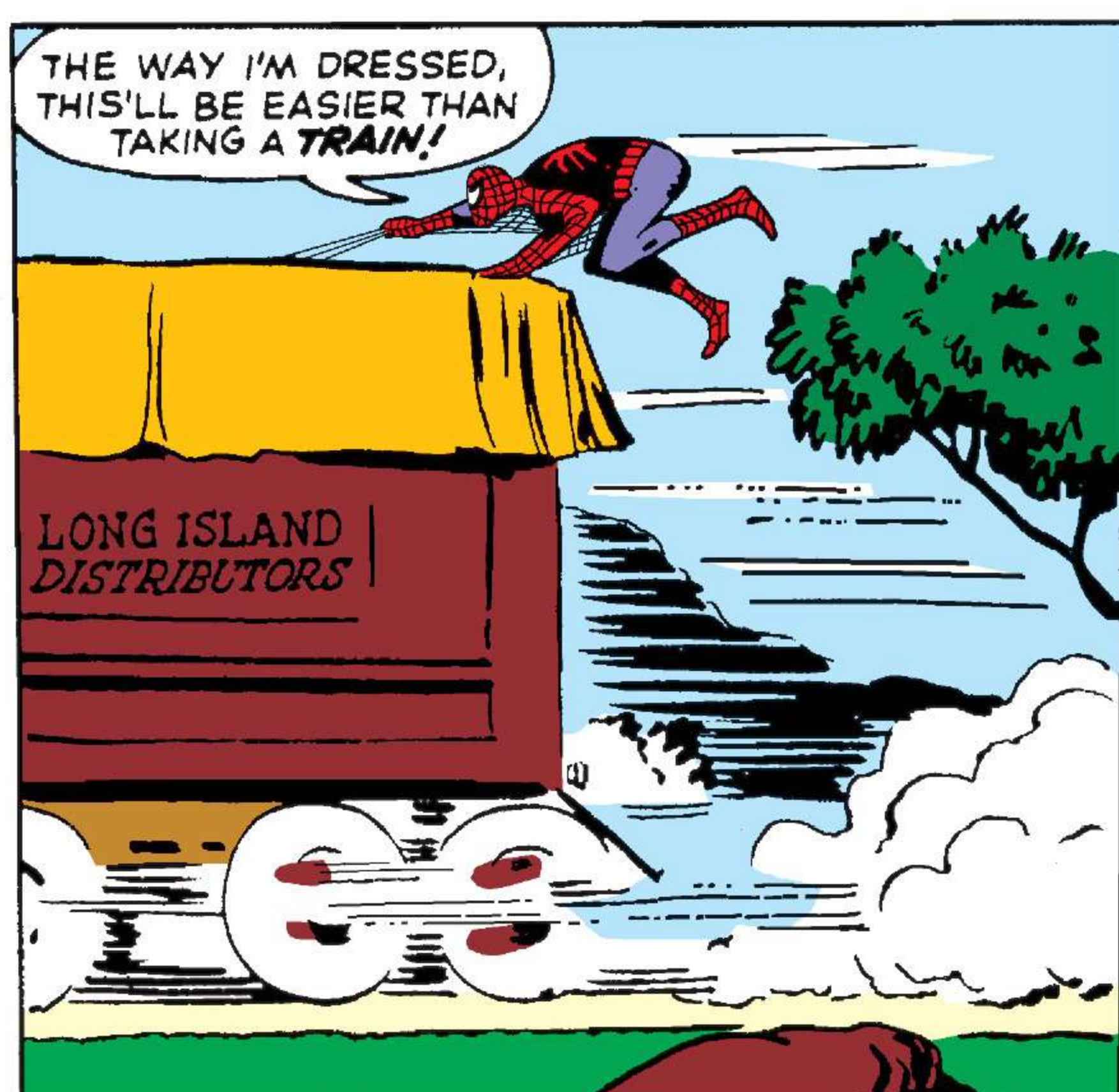
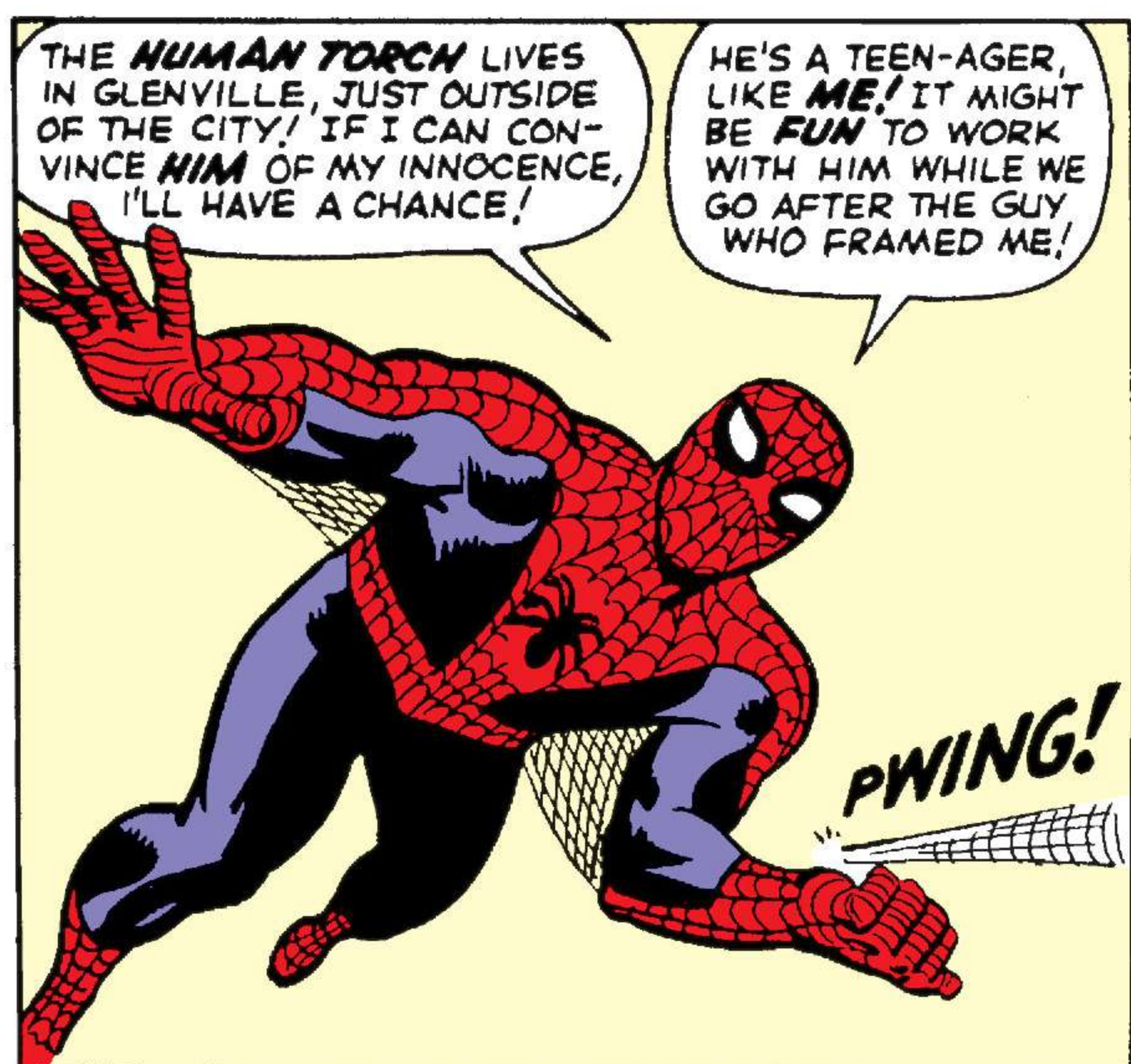
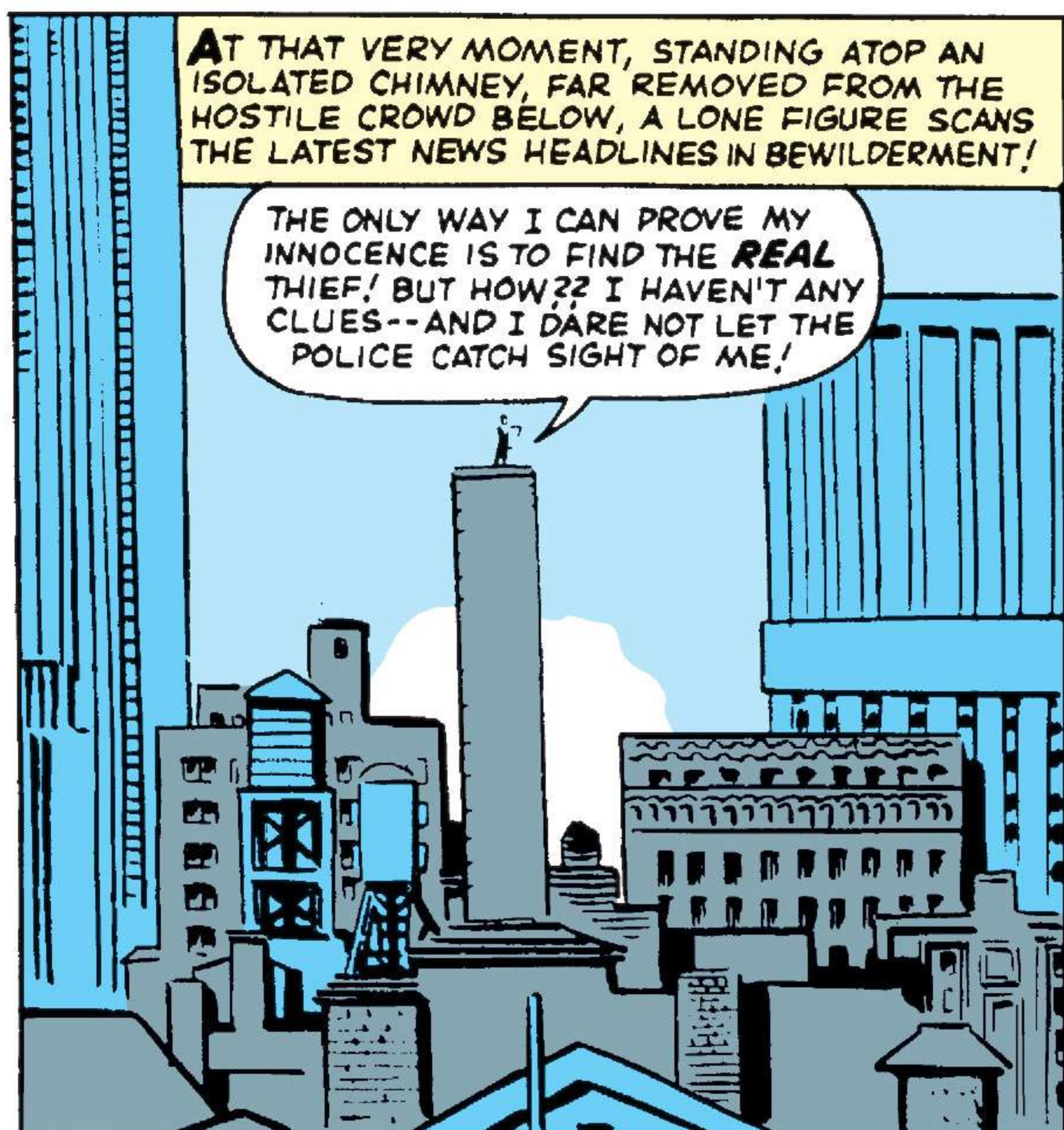
ALTHOUGH HE DOESN'T SUSPECT IT, THE **TORCH** IS CLOSER TO THAT CHANCE THAN HE KNOWS! LET US NOW VISIT THE MUSEUM OF ART, WHERE A NEWLY-DISCOVERED **DA VINCI** MASTERPIECE IS ON EXHIBITION...

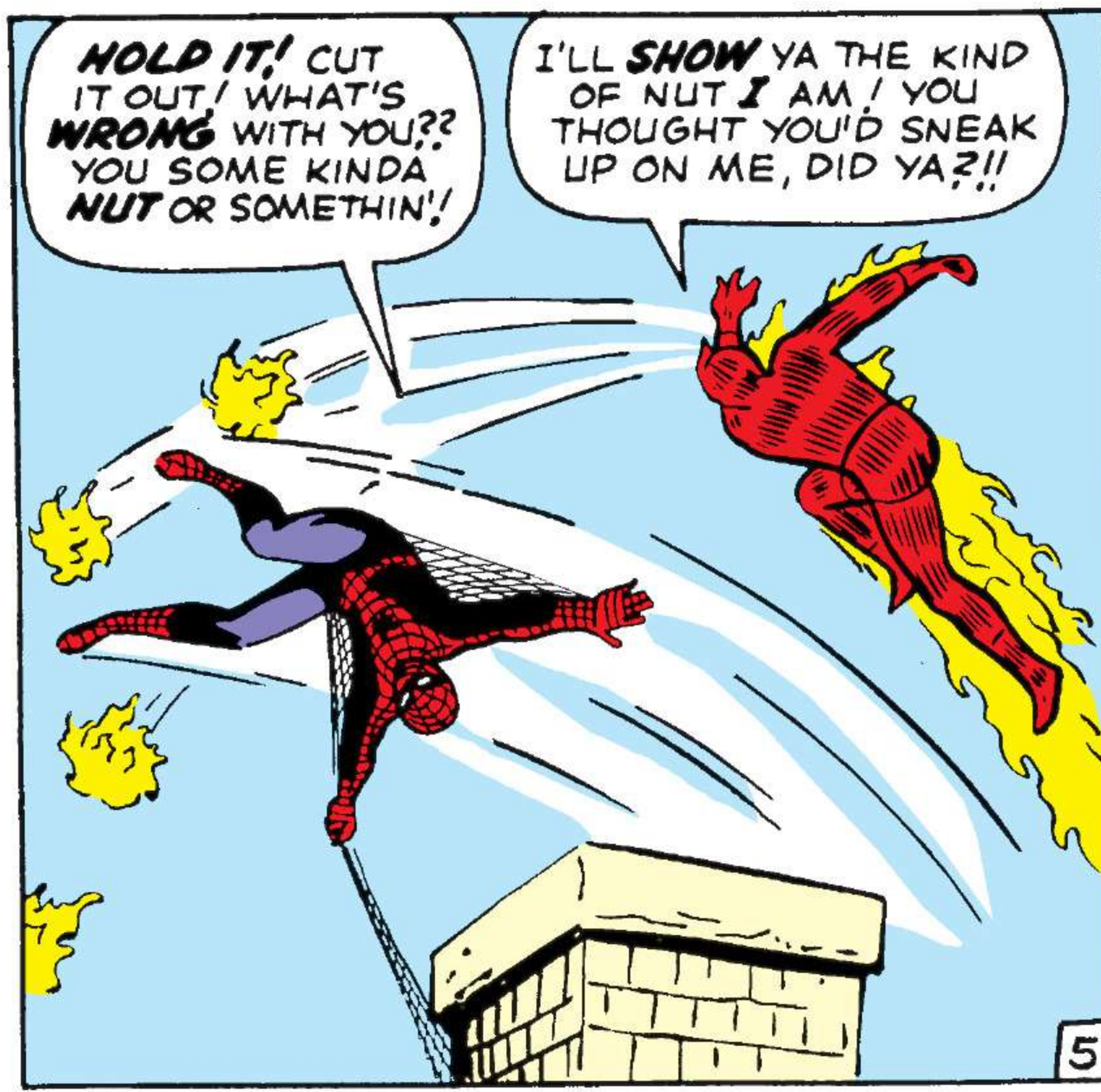
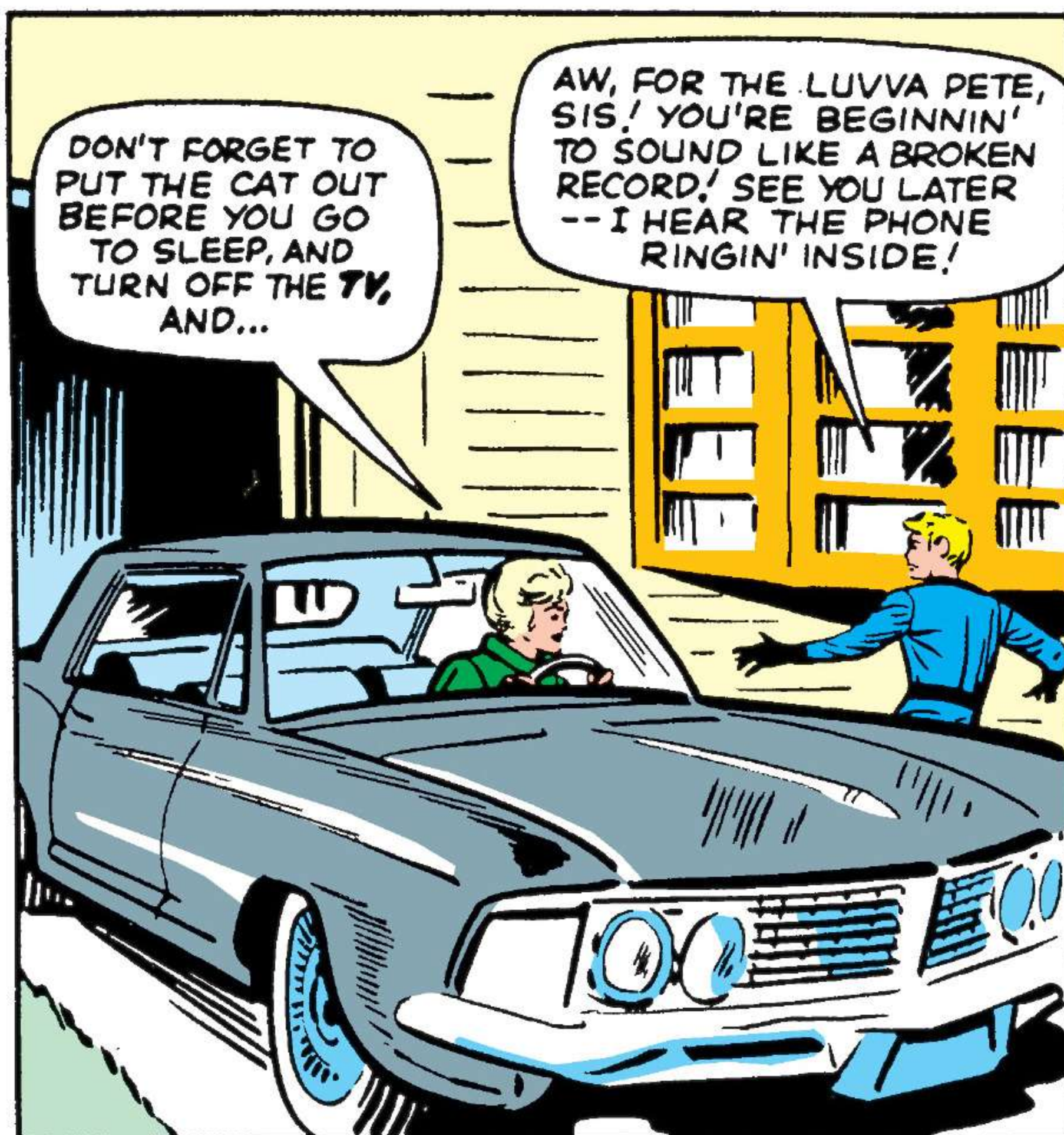


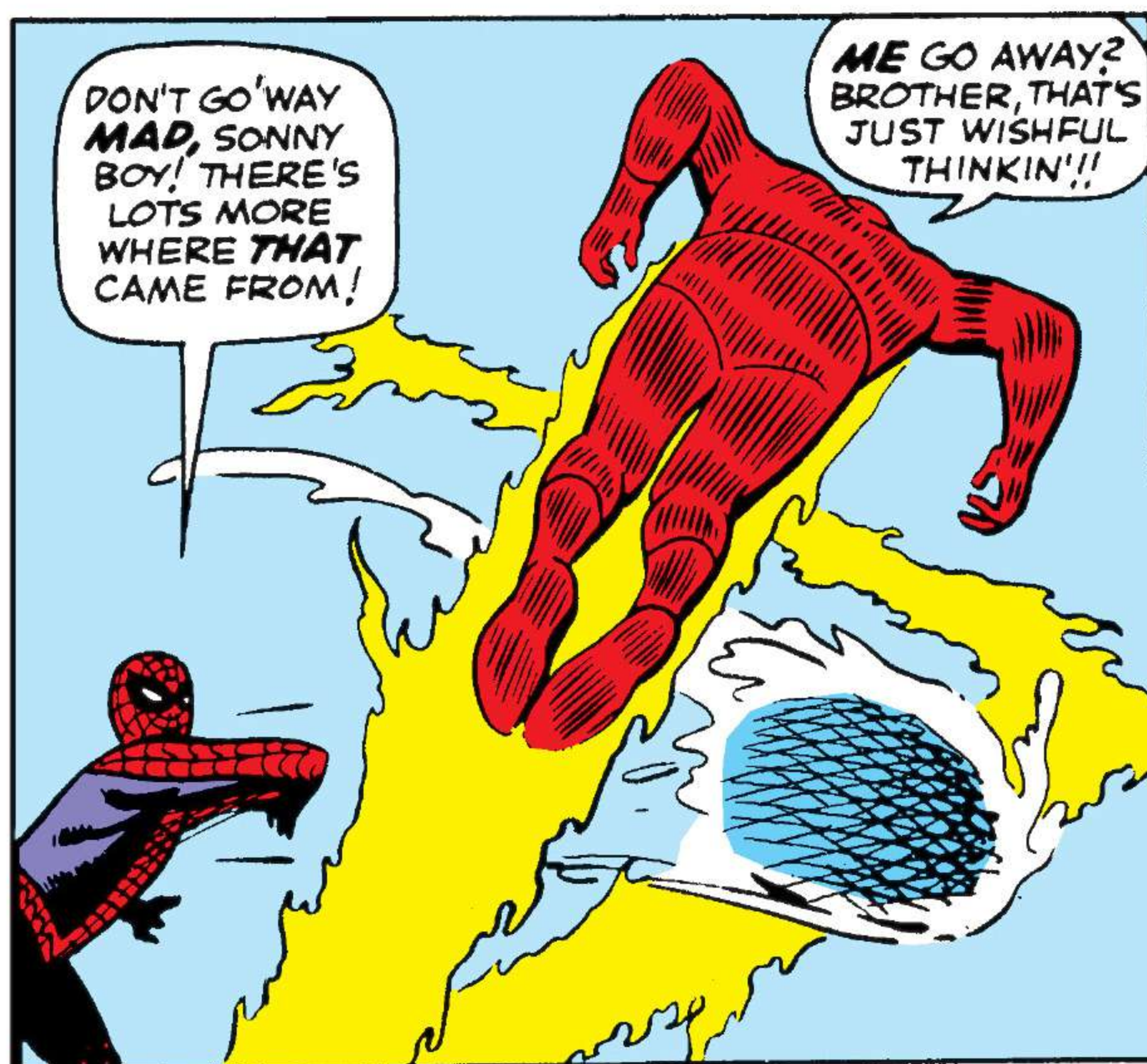
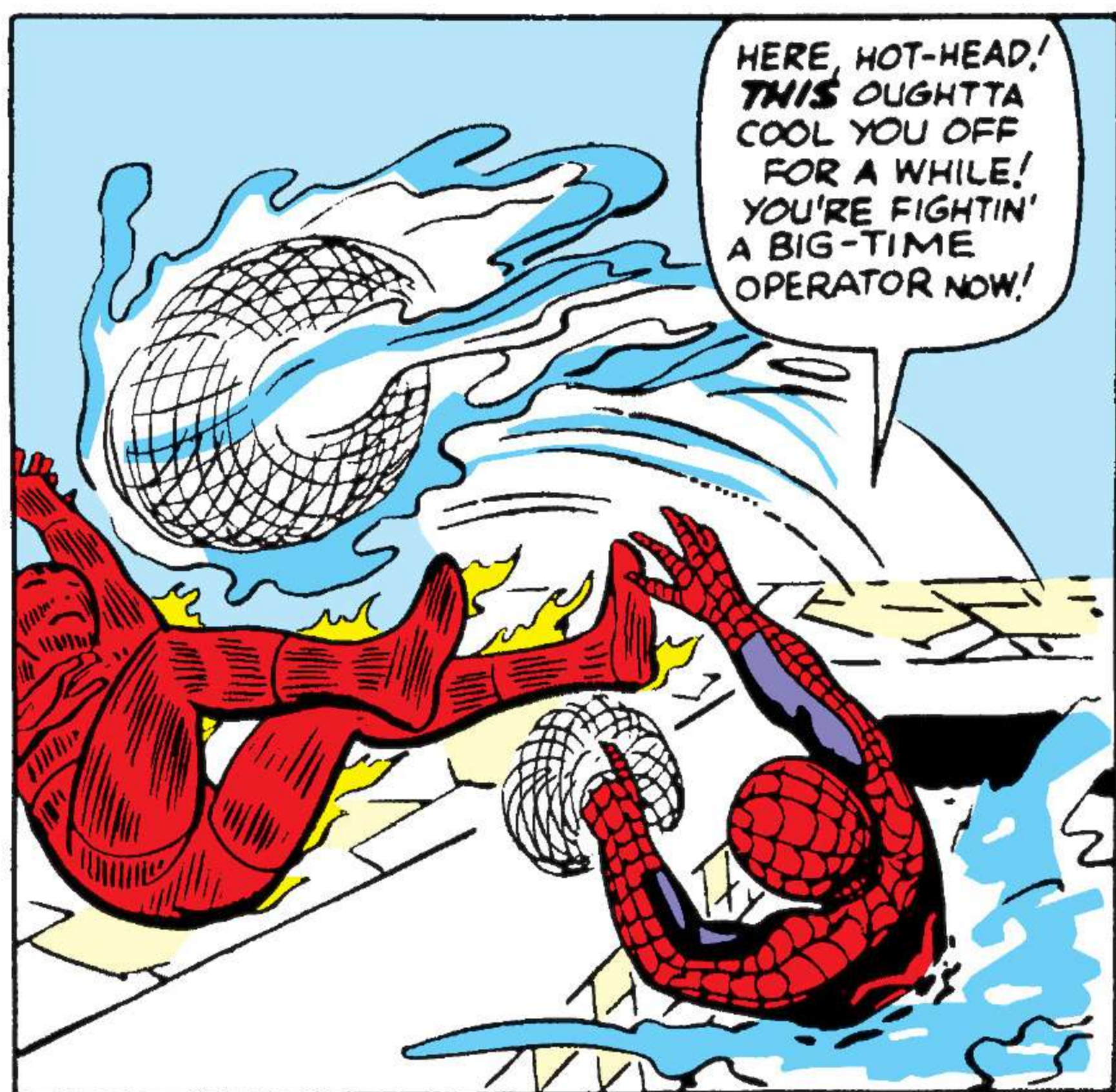
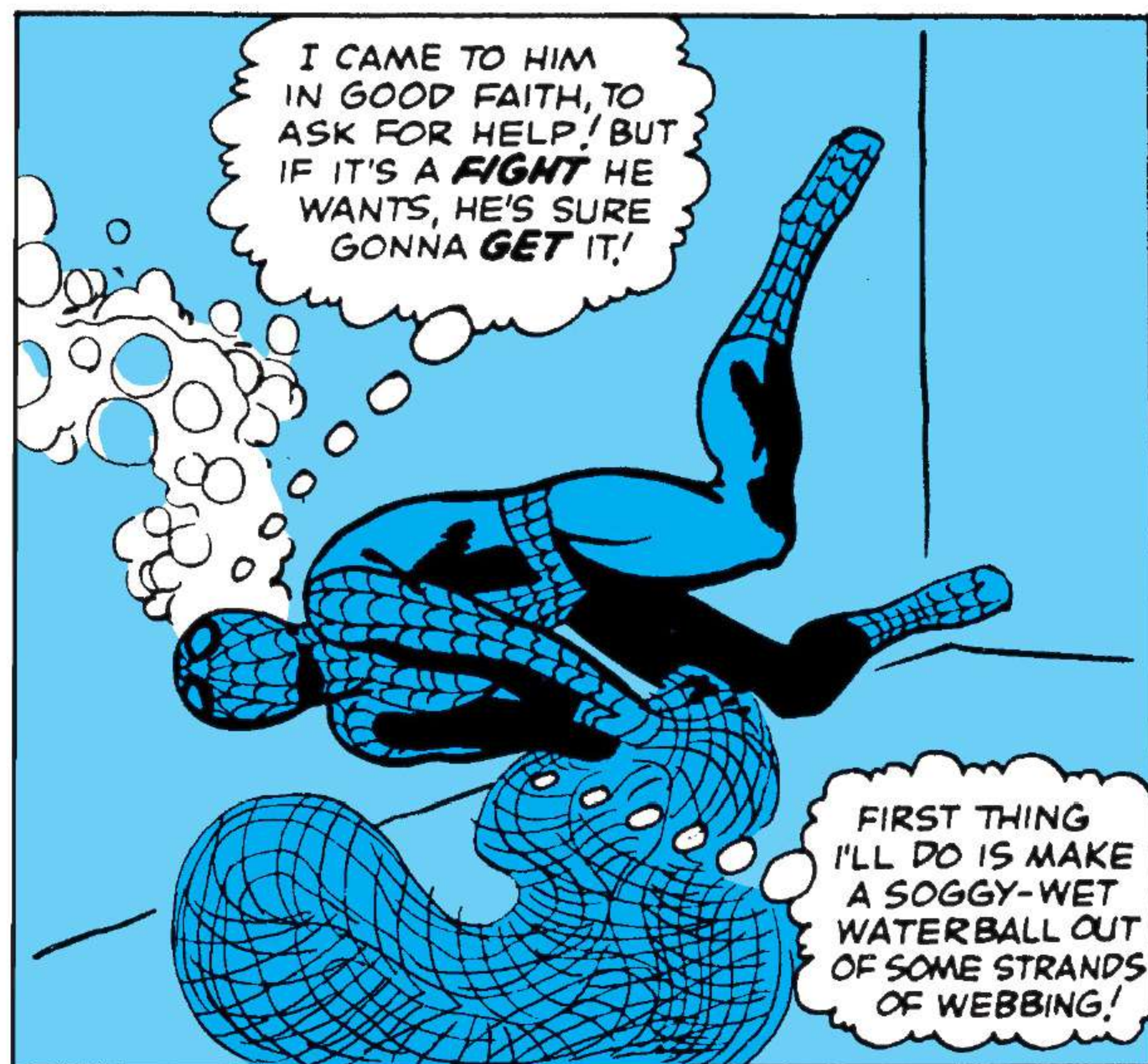
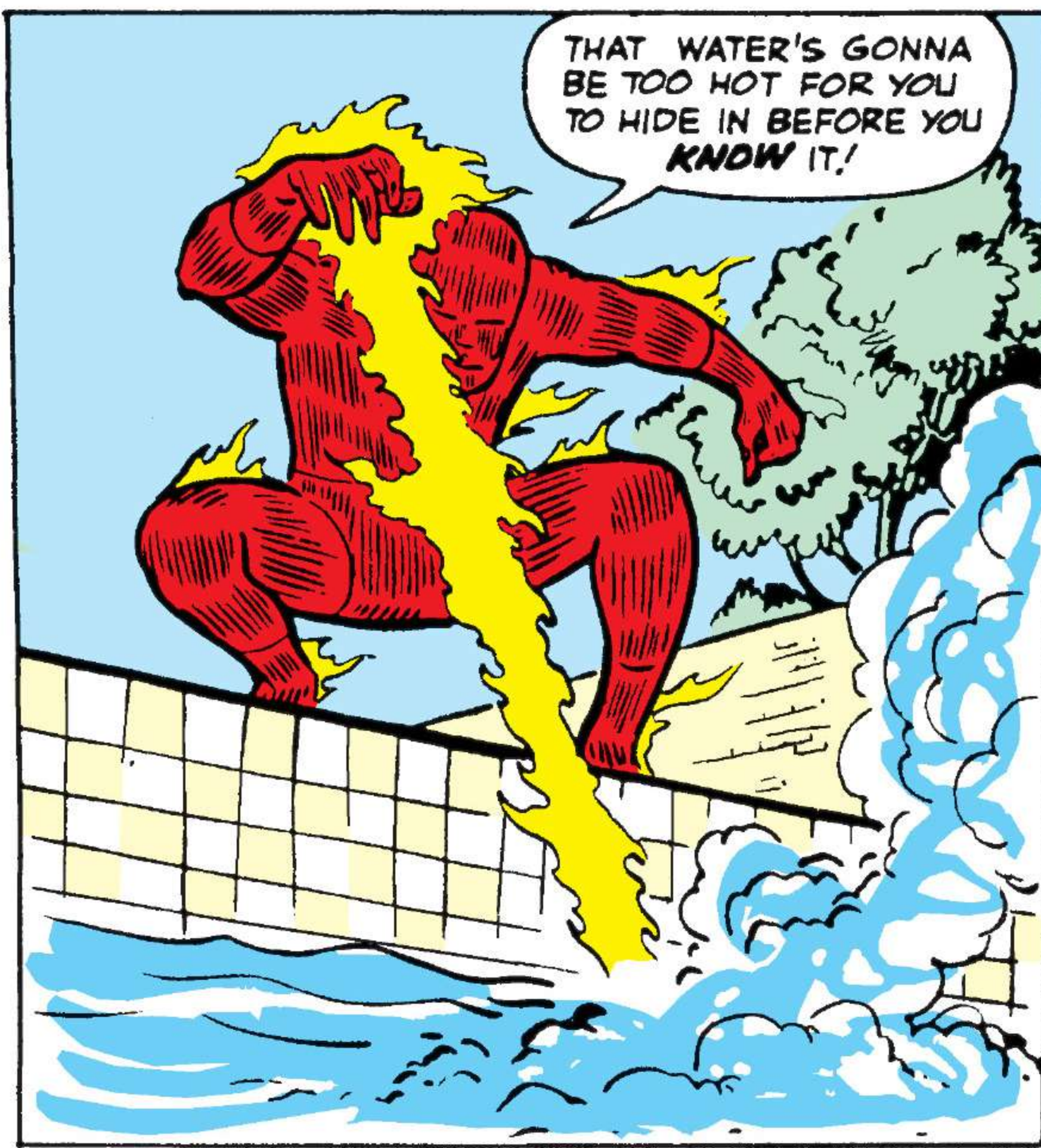
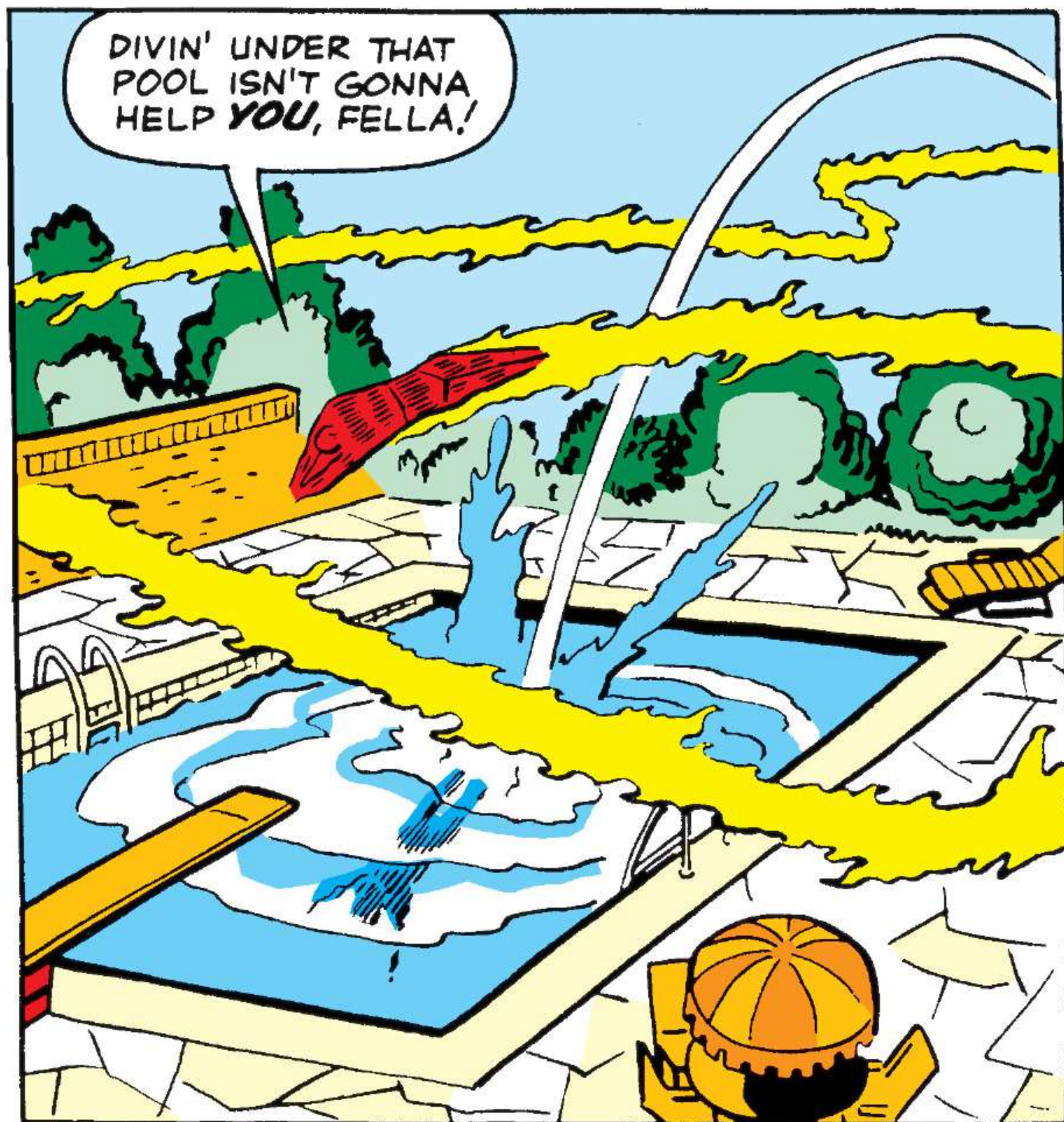
YOU'LL **NEVER** BE ABLE TO PULL THIS JOB OFF, **FOX**! THERE'S TOO MANY **GUARDS** AROUND!

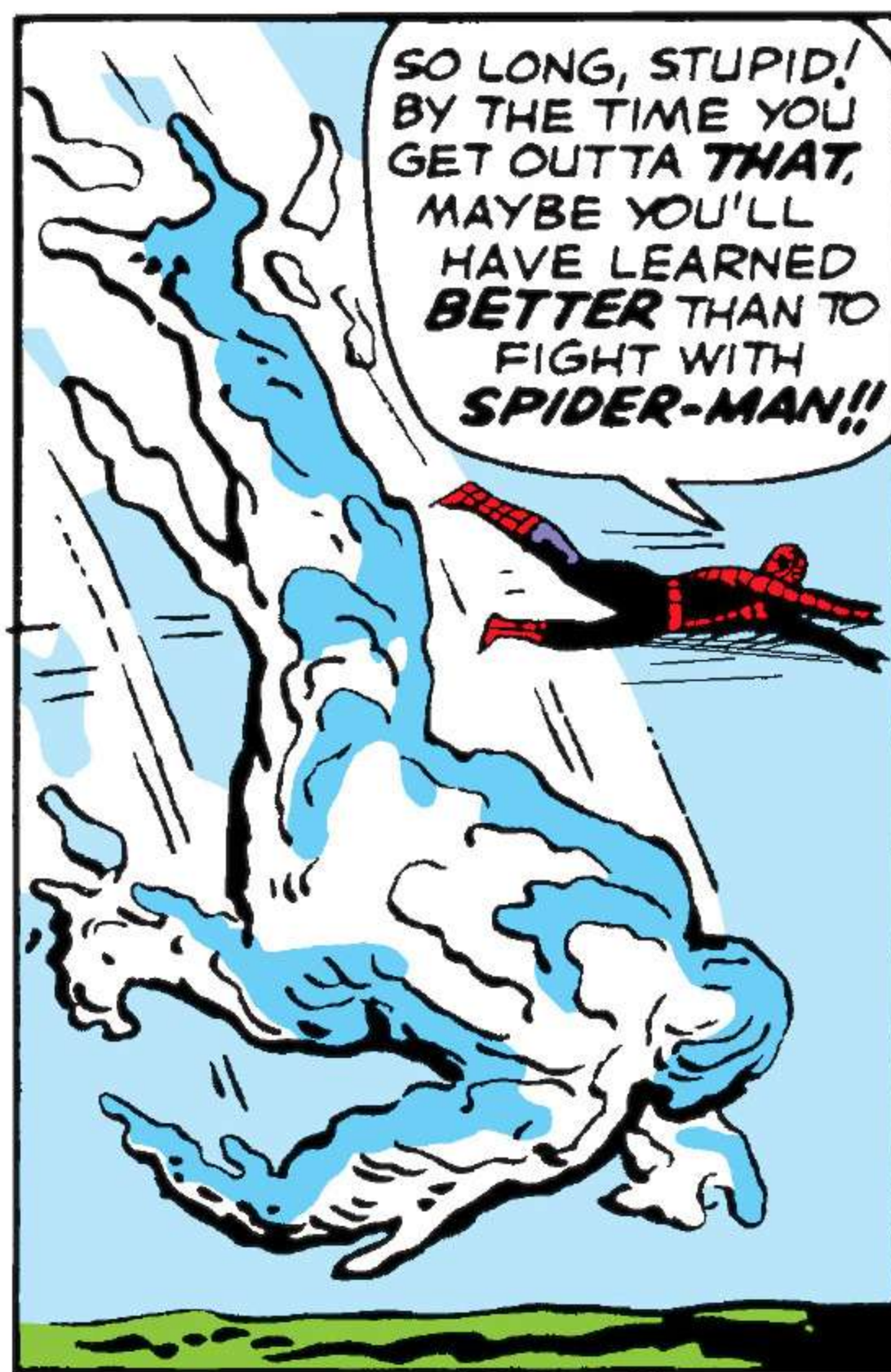
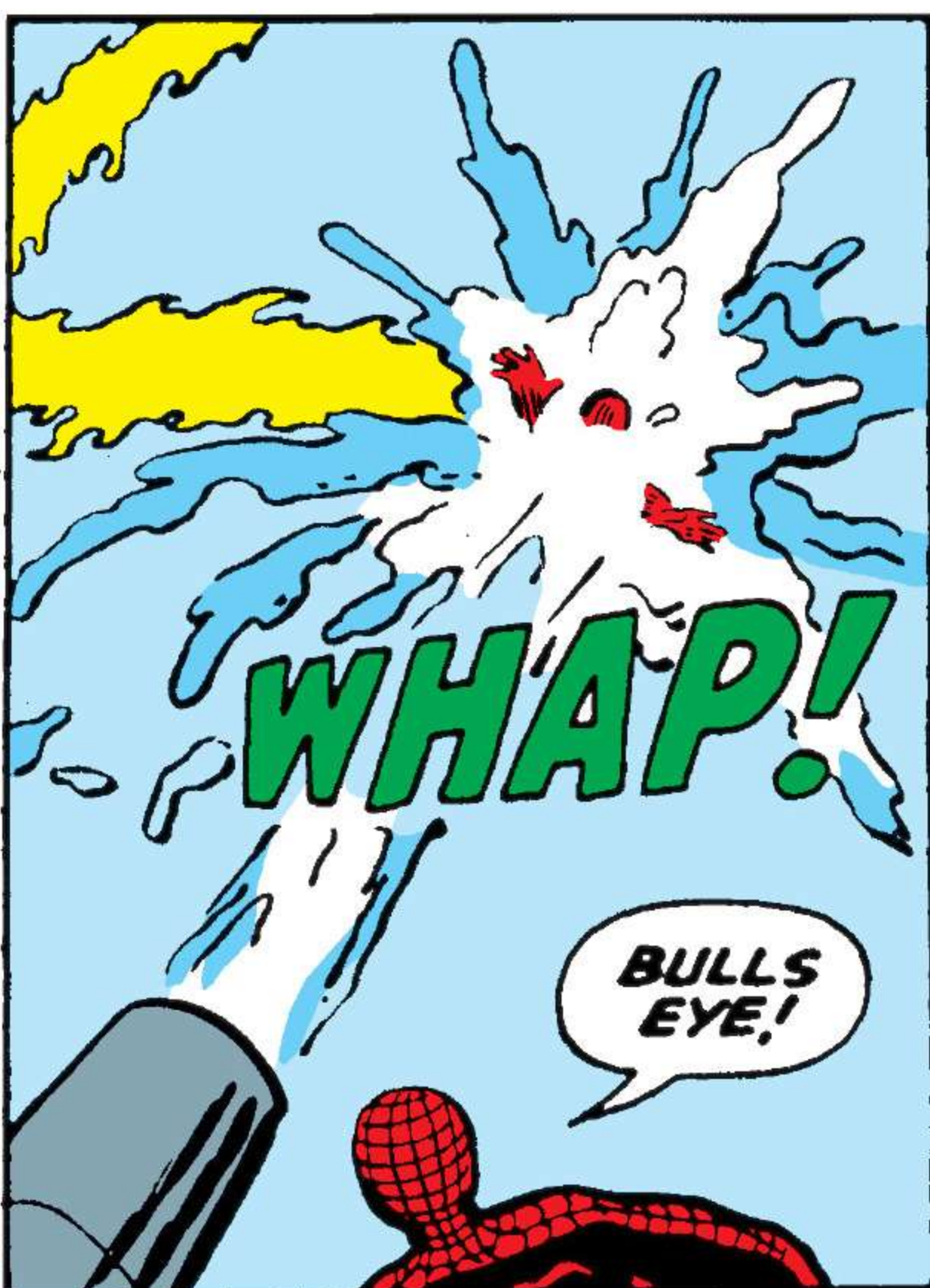
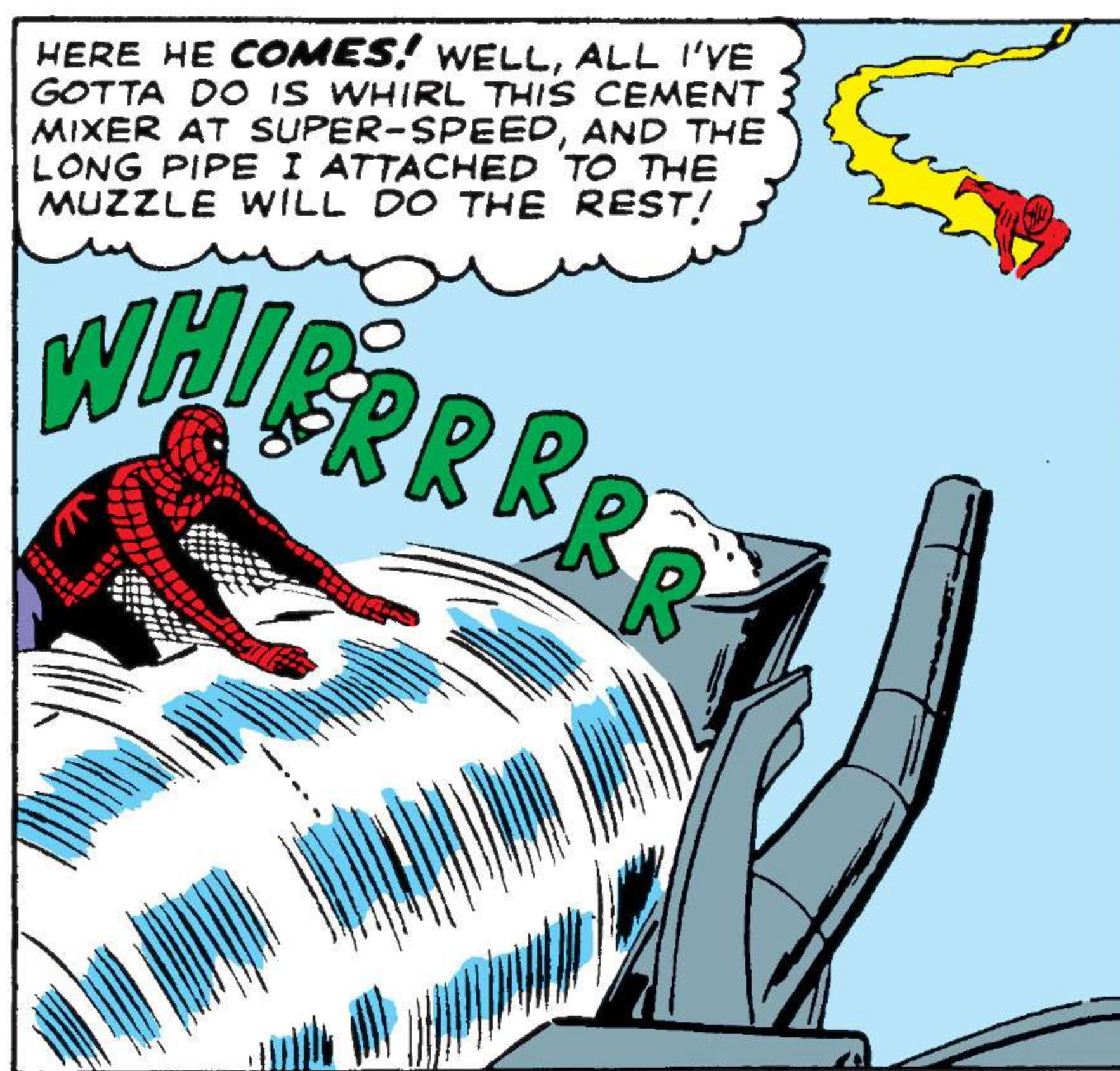
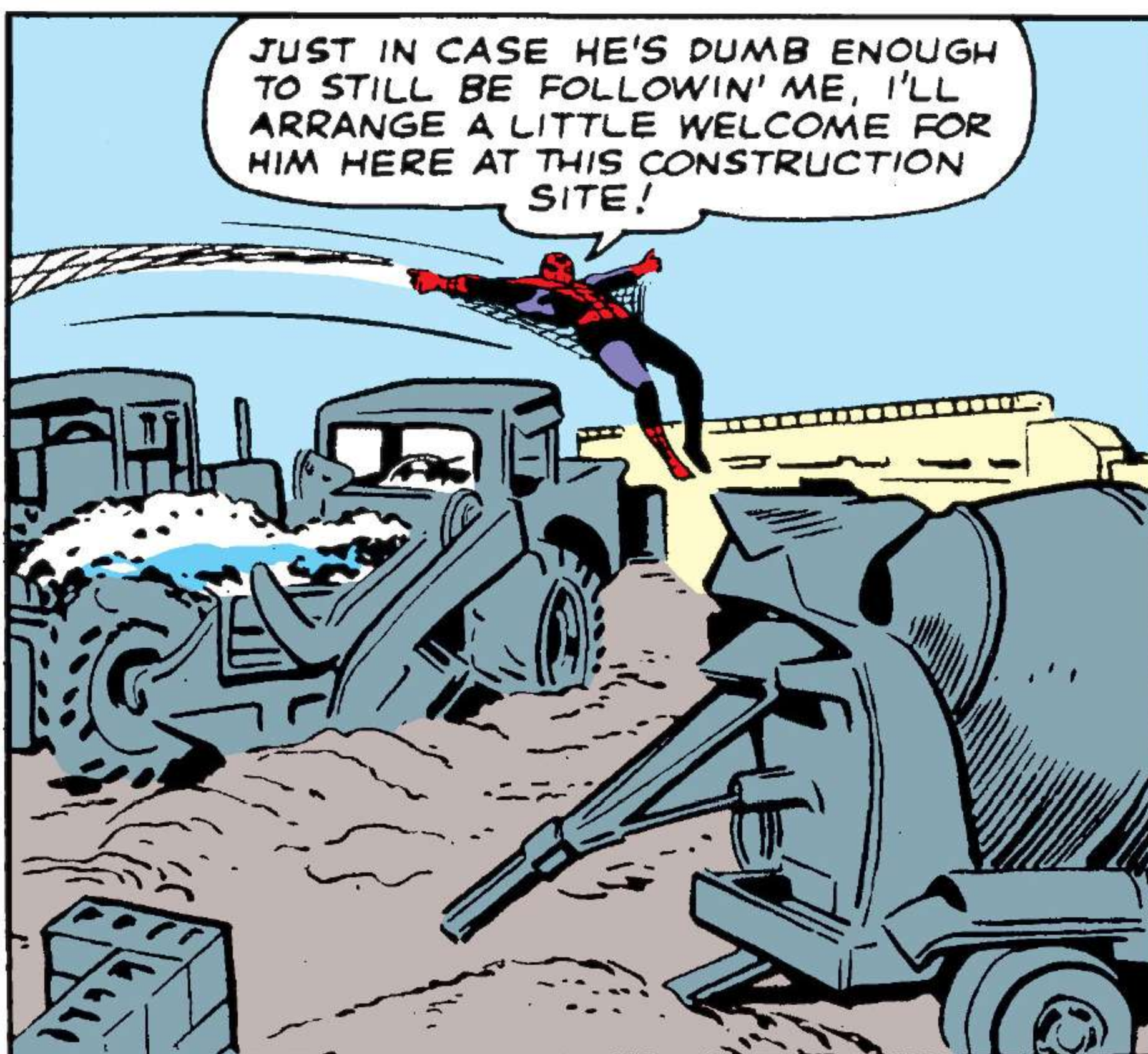
DON'T BE A **FOOL**! MY PLANS ARE ALL MADE! THAT PAINTING WILL BELONG TO THE **FOX** BEFORE MORNING!

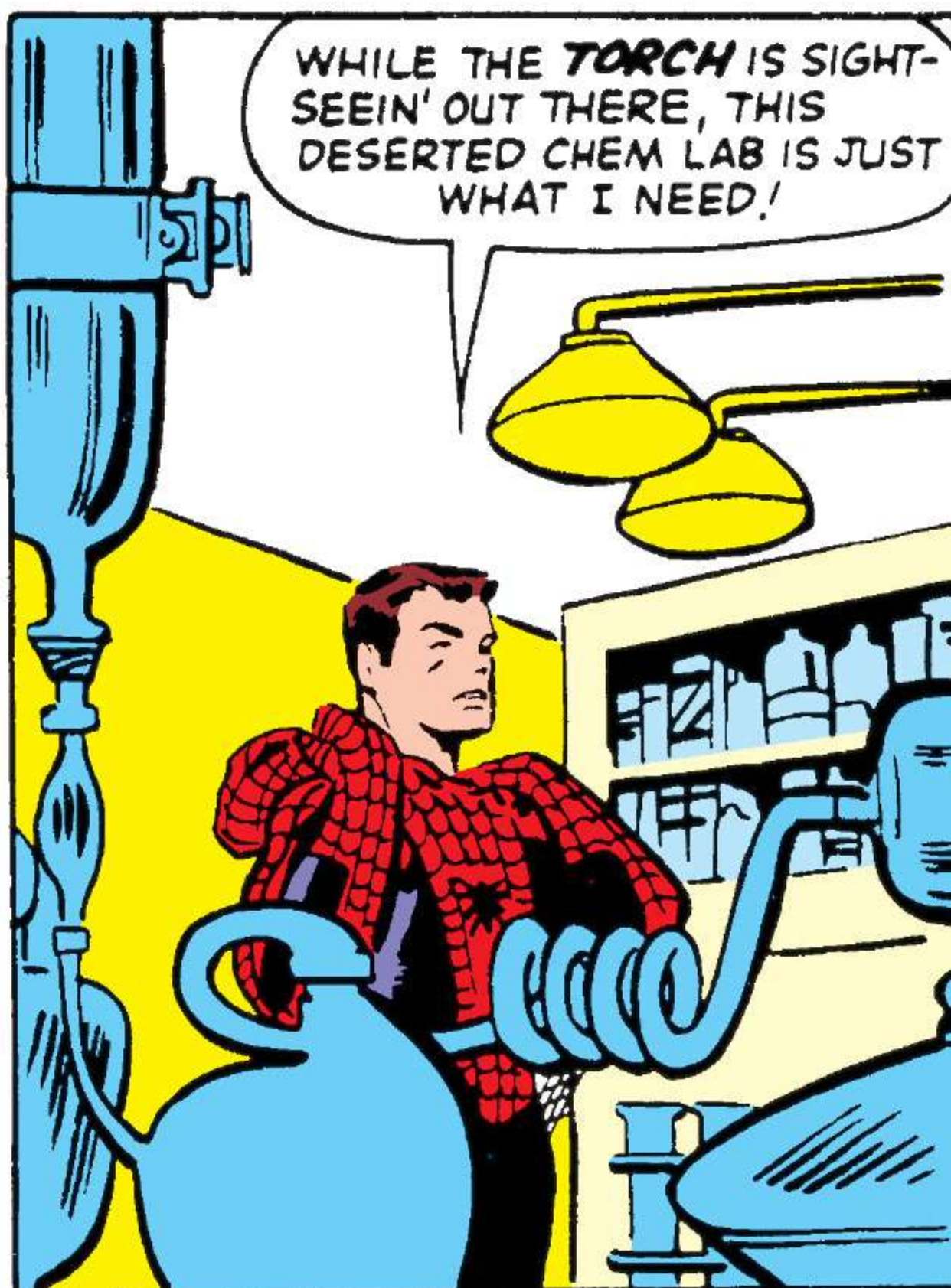
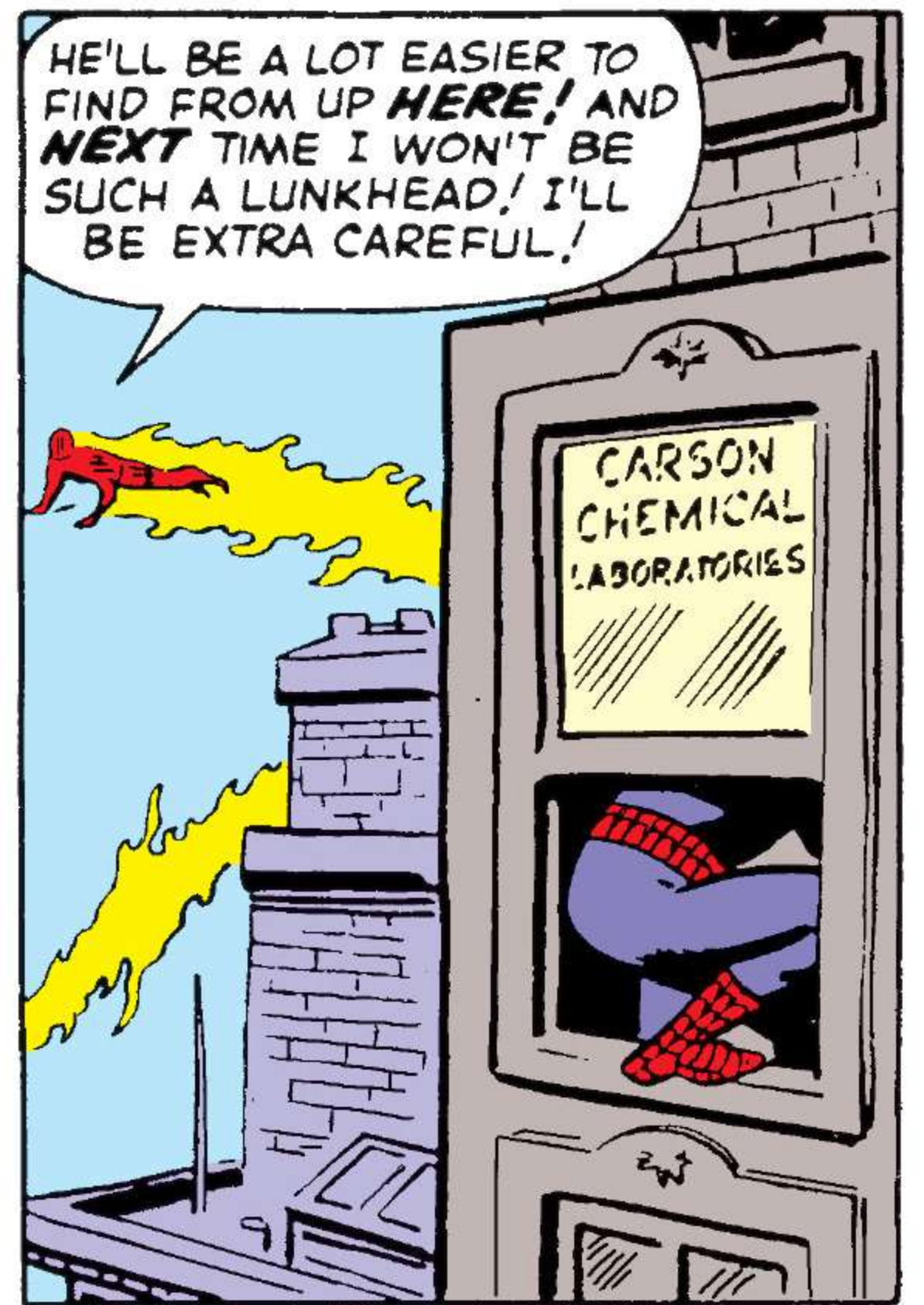
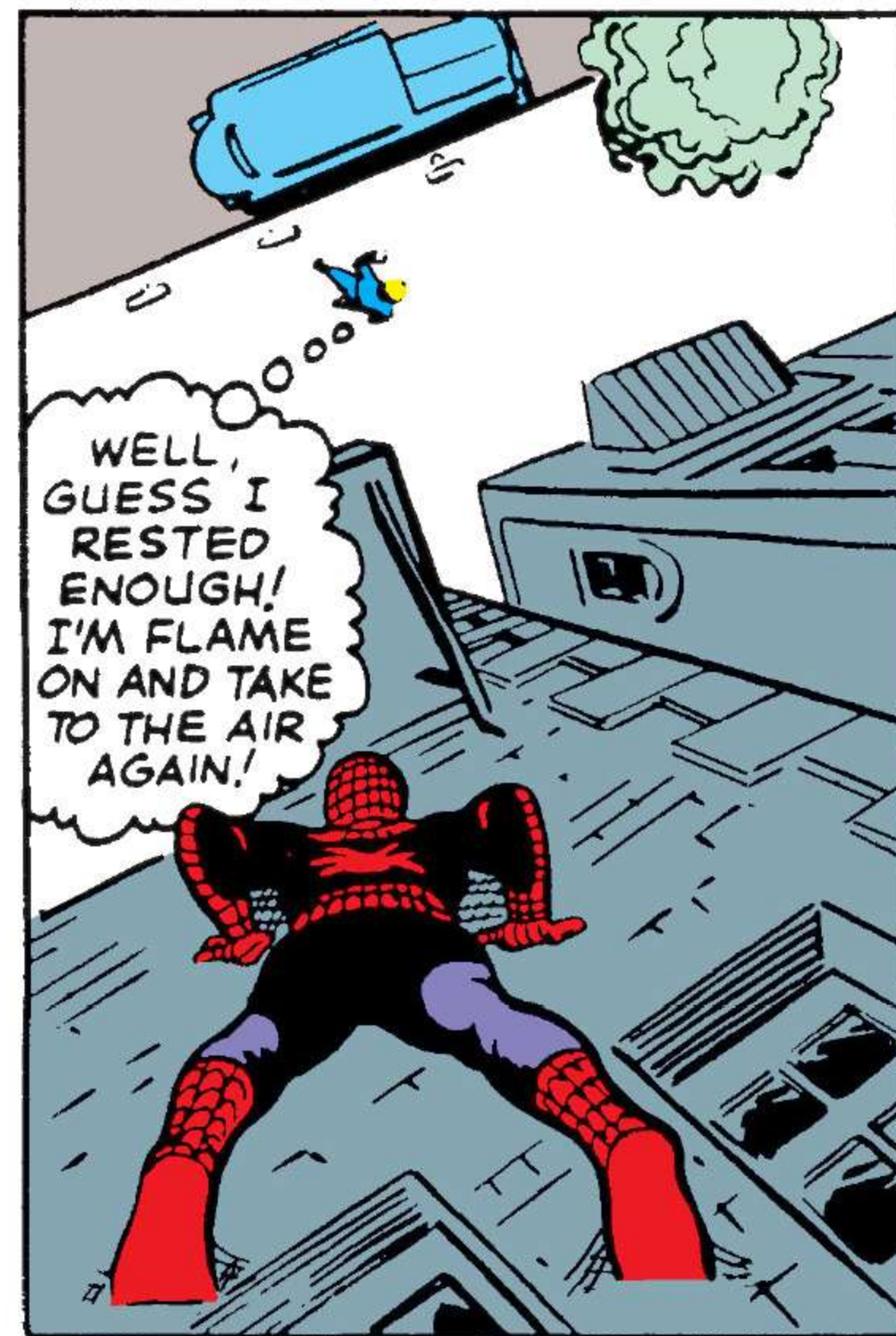
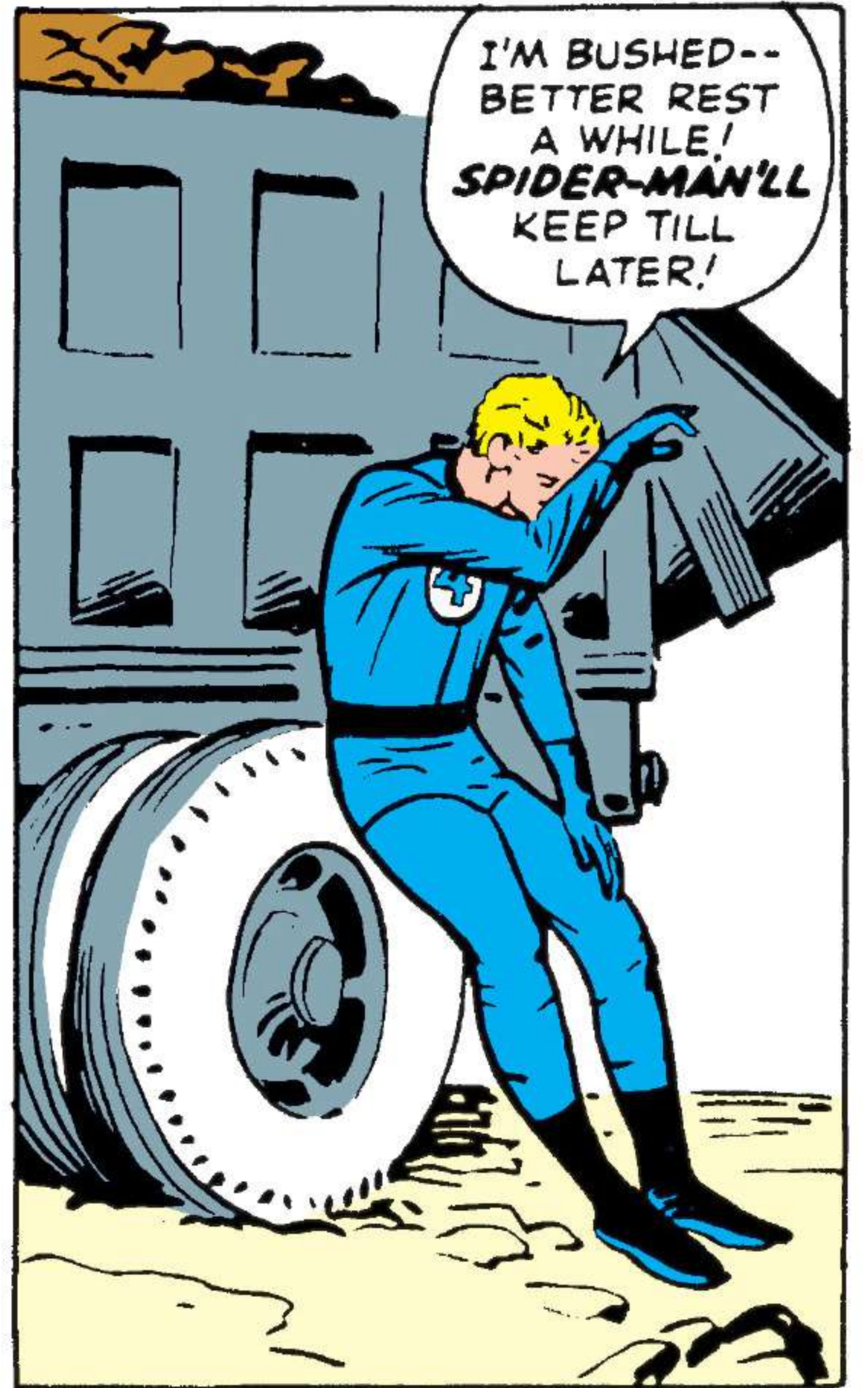






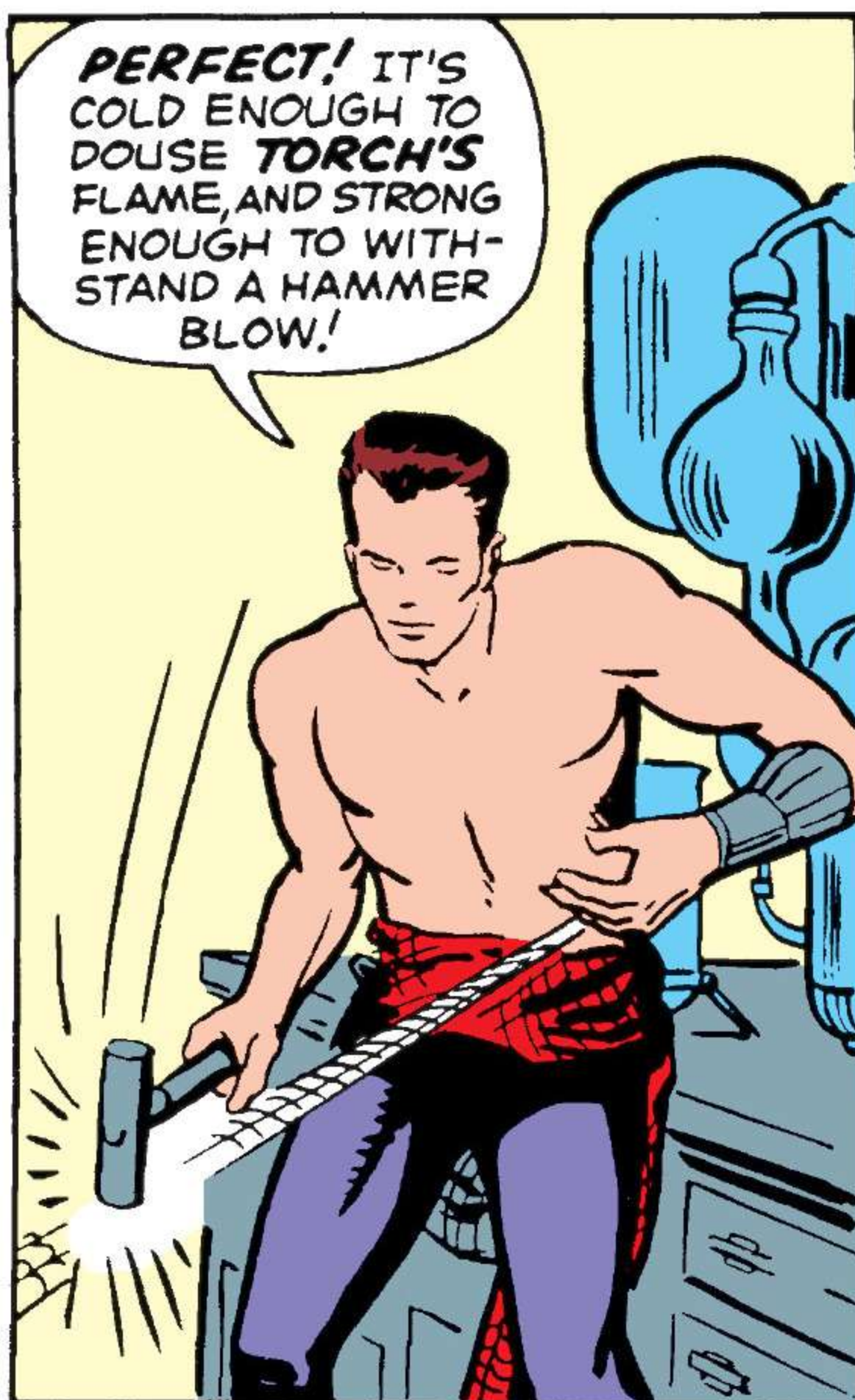








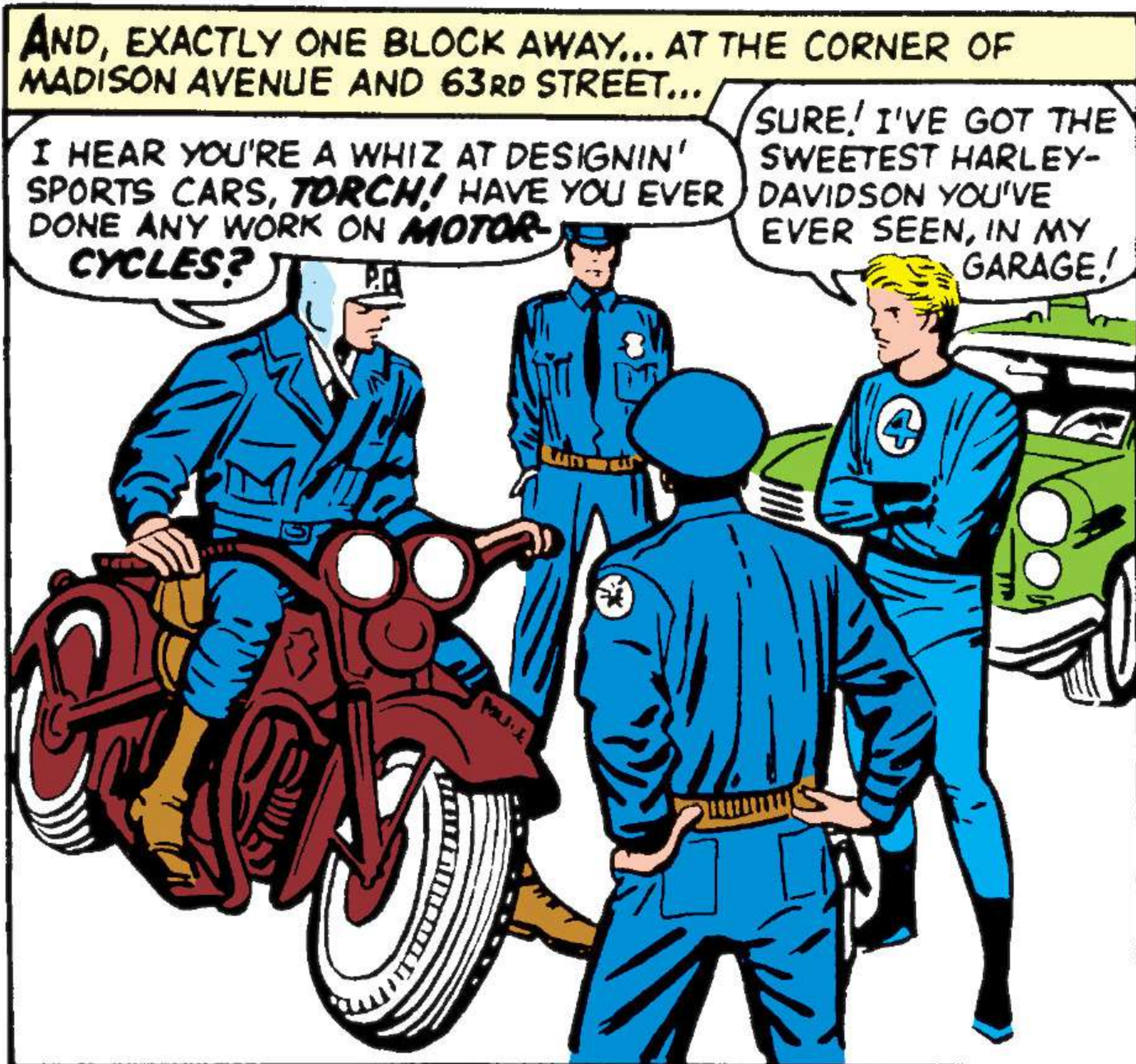
DONE! NOW ALL THAT REMAINS IS TO **TEST IT!**



PERFECT! IT'S COLD ENOUGH TO DOUSE **TORCH'S** FLAME, AND STRONG ENOUGH TO WITHSTAND A HAMMER BLOW!



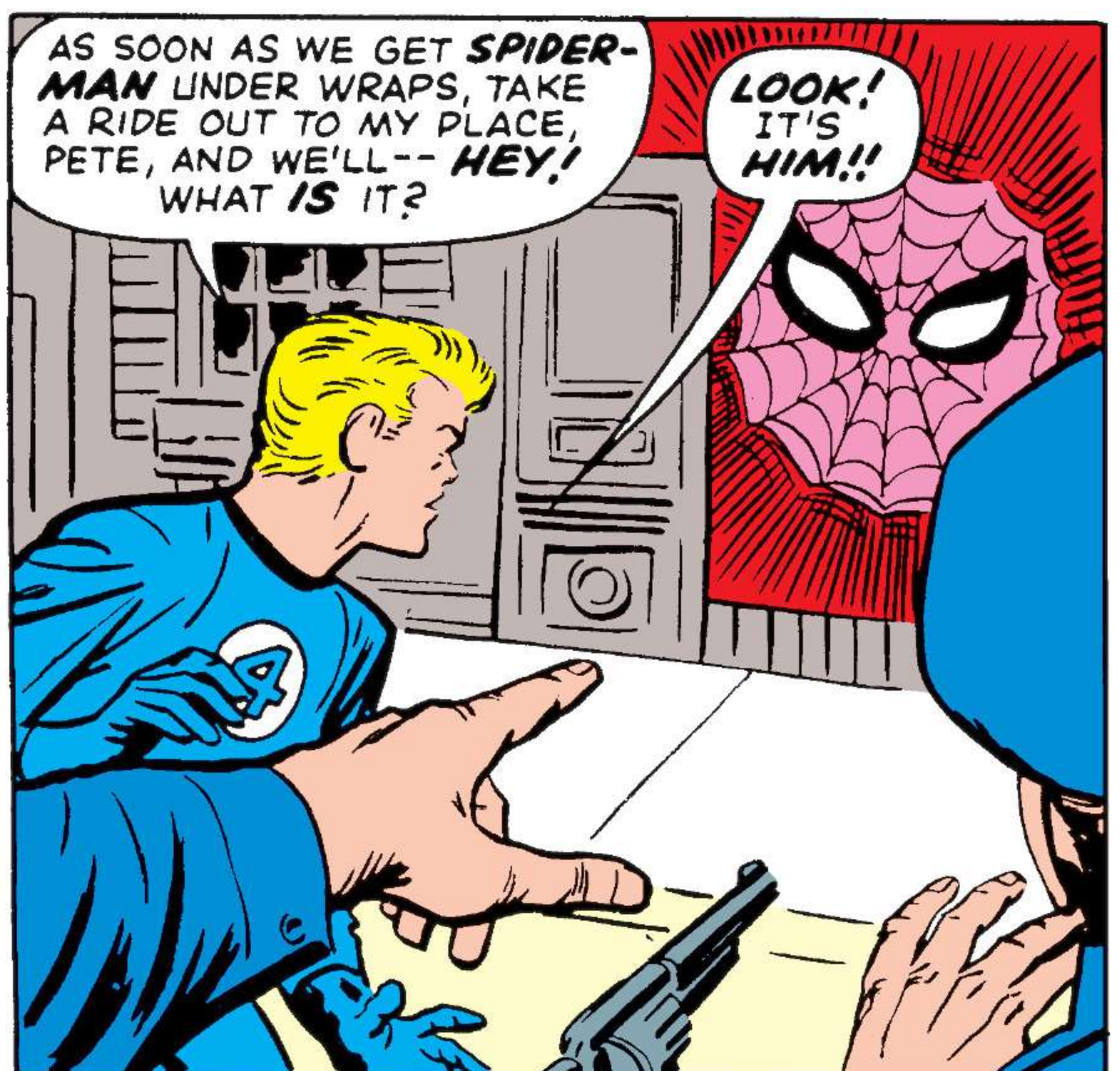
NOW IT'S TIME TO TRACK ME DOWN A **HUMAN TORCH!**



AND, EXACTLY ONE BLOCK AWAY... AT THE CORNER OF MADISON AVENUE AND 63RD STREET...

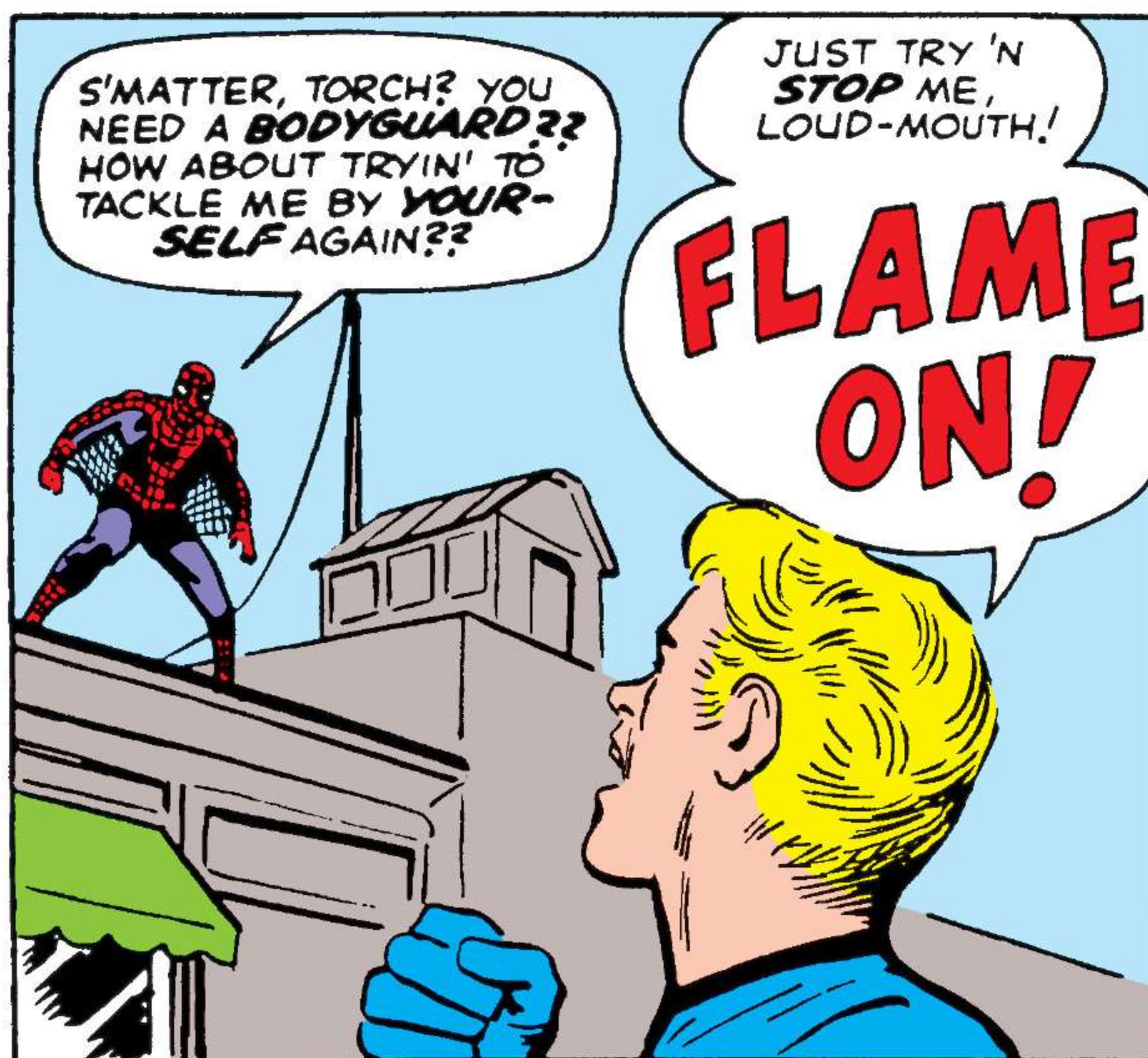
I HEAR YOU'RE A WHIZ AT DESIGNIN' SPORTS CARS, **TORCH!** HAVE YOU EVER DONE ANY WORK ON **MOTOR-CYCLES?**

SURE! I'VE GOT THE SWEETEST HARLEY-DAVIDSON YOU'VE EVER SEEN, IN MY GARAGE!



AS SOON AS WE GET **SPIDER-MAN** UNDER WRAPS, TAKE A RIDE OUT TO MY PLACE, PETE, AND WE'LL-- **HEY!** WHAT **IS** IT?

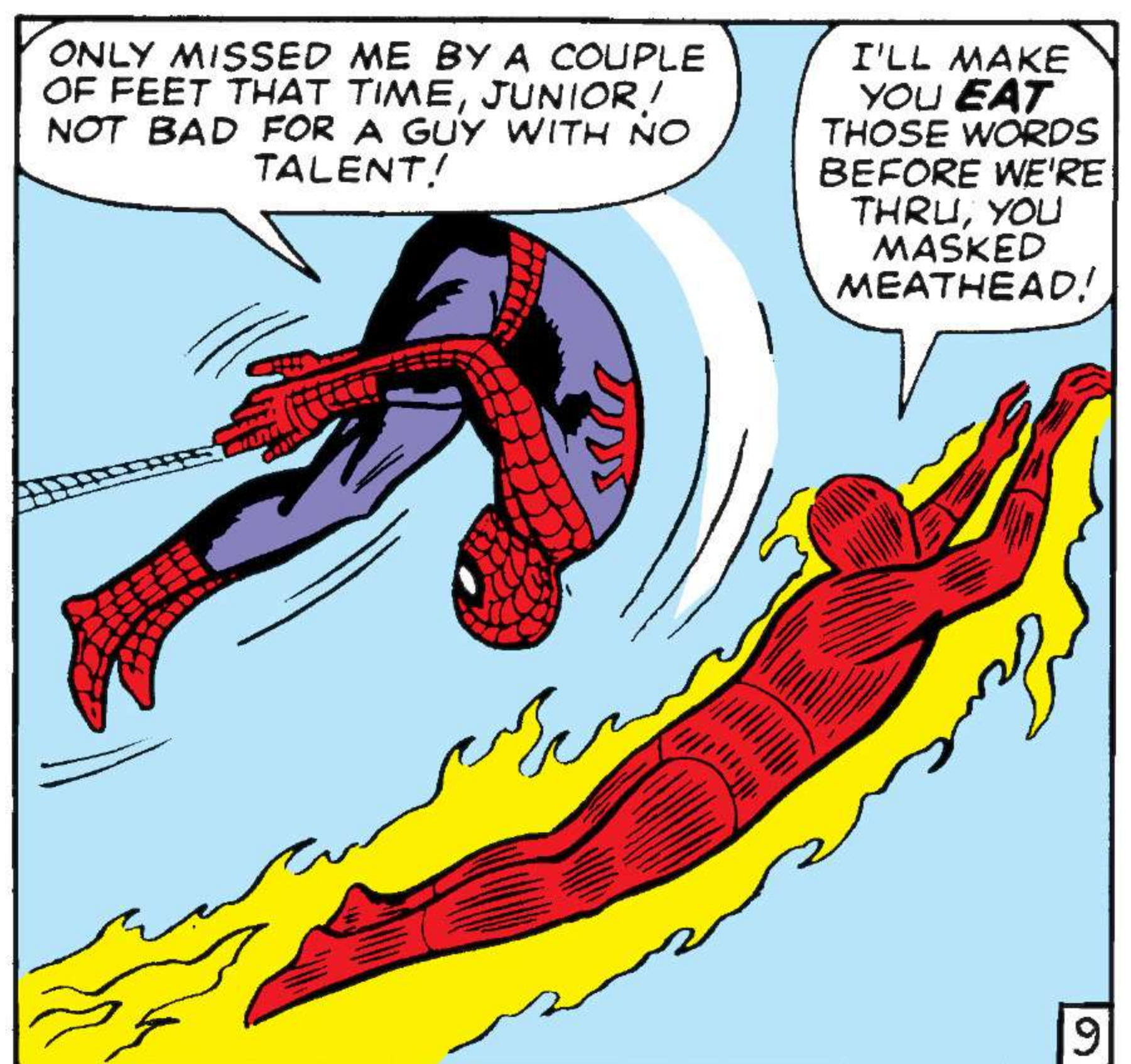
LOOK! IT'S **HIM!!**



S'MATTER, **TORCH?** YOU NEED A **BODYGUARD??** HOW ABOUT TRYIN' TO TACKLE ME BY **YOUR-SELF** AGAIN??

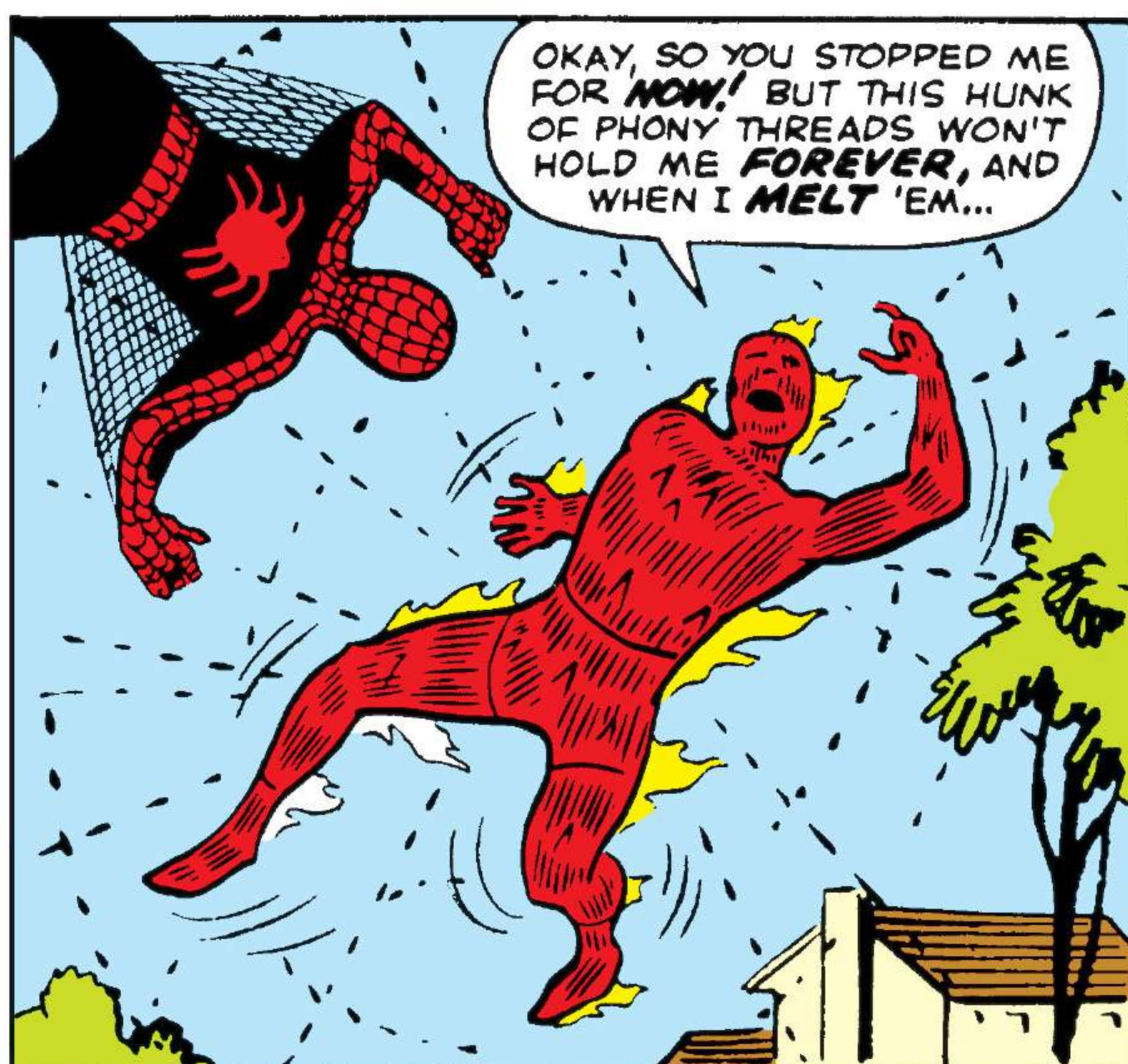
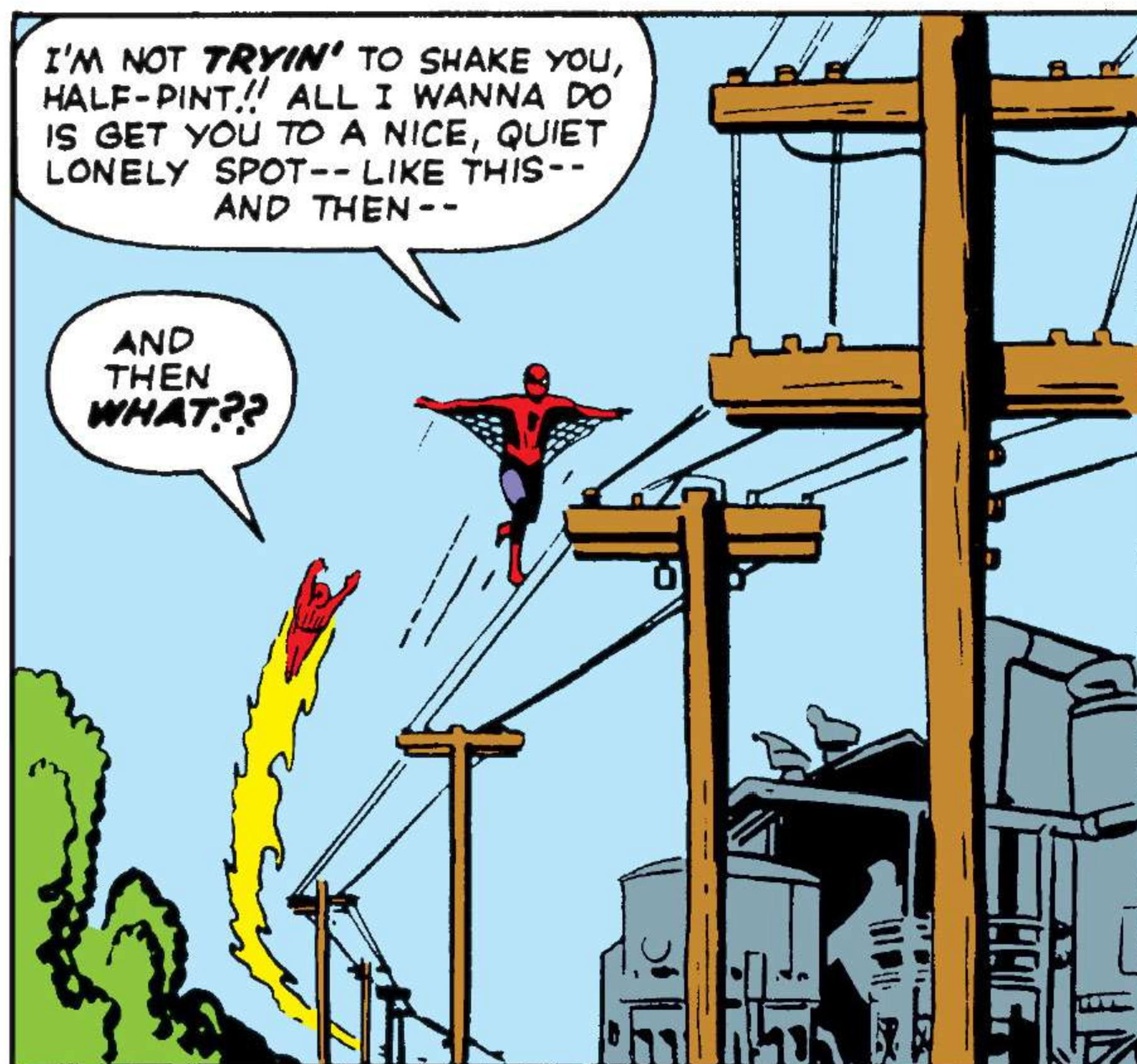
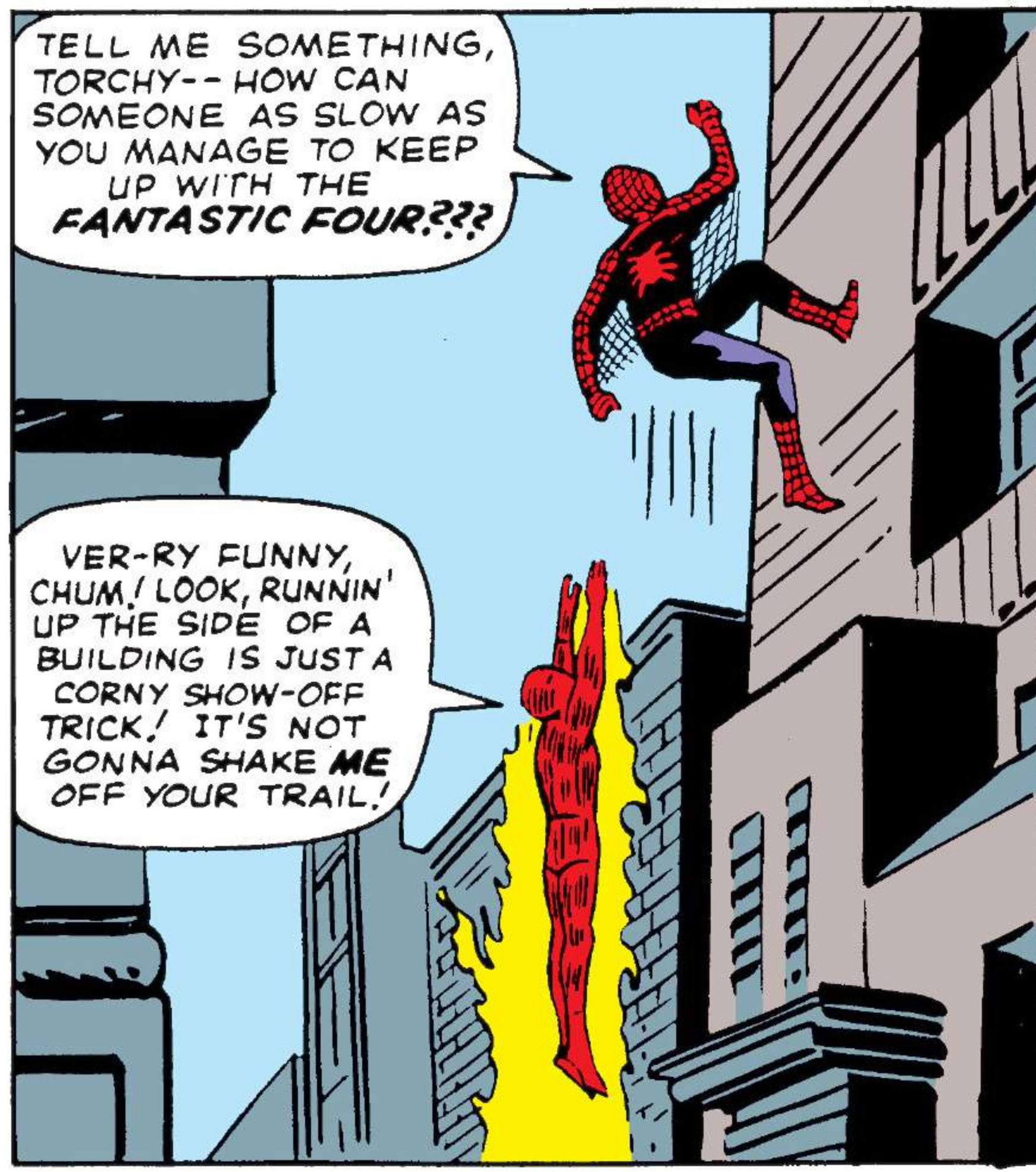
JUST TRY 'N **STOP** ME, LOUD-MOUTH!

FLAME ON!



ONLY MISSED ME BY A COUPLE OF FEET THAT TIME, JUNIOR! NOT BAD FOR A GUY WITH NO TALENT!

I'LL MAKE YOU **EAT** THOSE WORDS BEFORE WE'RE THRU, YOU MASKED MEATHEAD!





DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO CLAM UP AND **LISTEN??** THAT WEB IS SO ICY IT'LL MAKE YOU **COUGH** WHEN YOU OPEN YOUR MOUTH!

UGH--YOU'RE TELLIN' ME!!

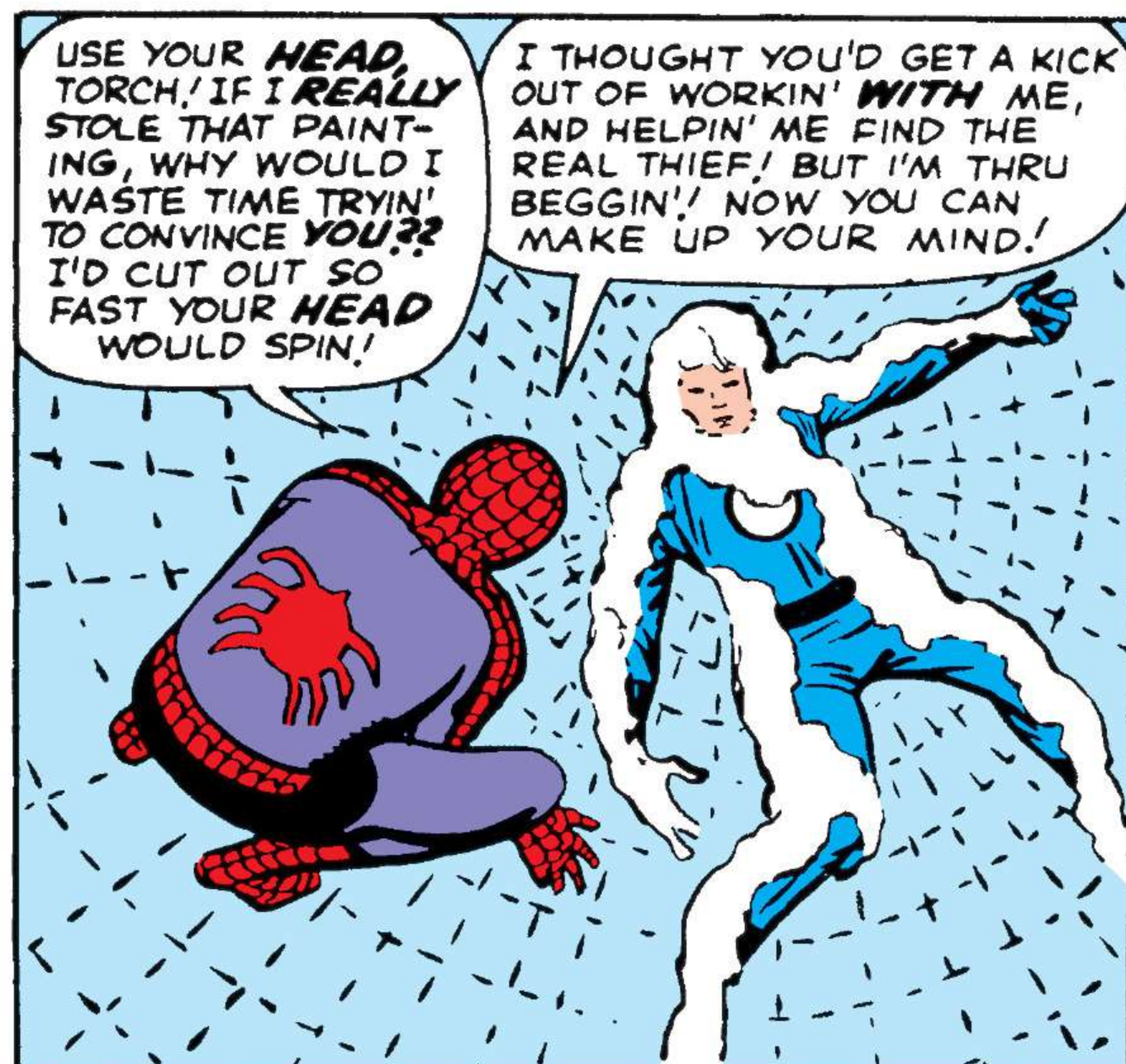


HEY, **NOW** WHAT?? MY FLAME DIED OUT SO FAST IT TURNED TO **VAPOR!** AND THE FRIGID WEB IS CHANGIN' THE VAPOR--



--FOR CRYIN' OUT LOUD! I'M COVERED WITH **SNOW!**

IT'LL SOON MELT AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO FLAME ON AGAIN, SO I'VE GOT TO TALK FAST--

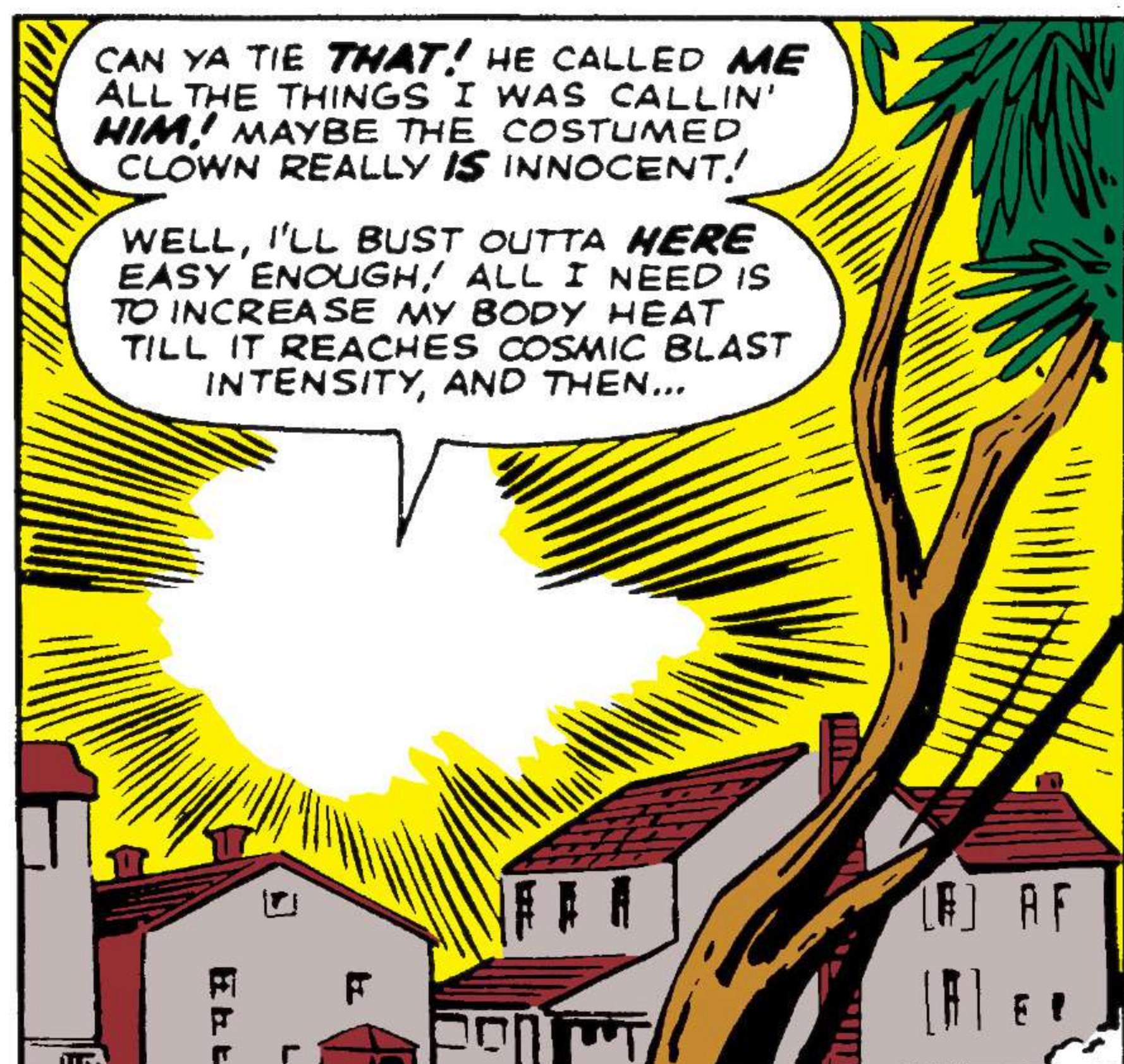


USE YOUR **HEAD**, TORCH! IF I **REALLY** STOLE THAT PAINTING, WHY WOULD I WASTE TIME TRYIN' TO CONVINCE **YOU??** I'D CUT OUT SO FAST YOUR **HEAD** WOULD SPIN!

I THOUGHT YOU'D GET A KICK OUT OF WORKIN' **WITH** ME, AND HELPIN' ME FIND THE REAL THIEF! BUT I'M THRU BEGGIN'! NOW YOU CAN MAKE UP YOUR MIND!



I PROBABLY MADE A MISTAKE COMIN' TO YOU IN THE **FIRST** PLACE! ALL **YOU** CARE ABOUT IS **HEAD-LINES!** YOU PROBABLY DON'T WANNA SHARE THE PUBLICITY WITH **ME!** SO I'LL GO IT **ALONE** FROM HERE ON IN! SO LONG, LITTLE MAN!

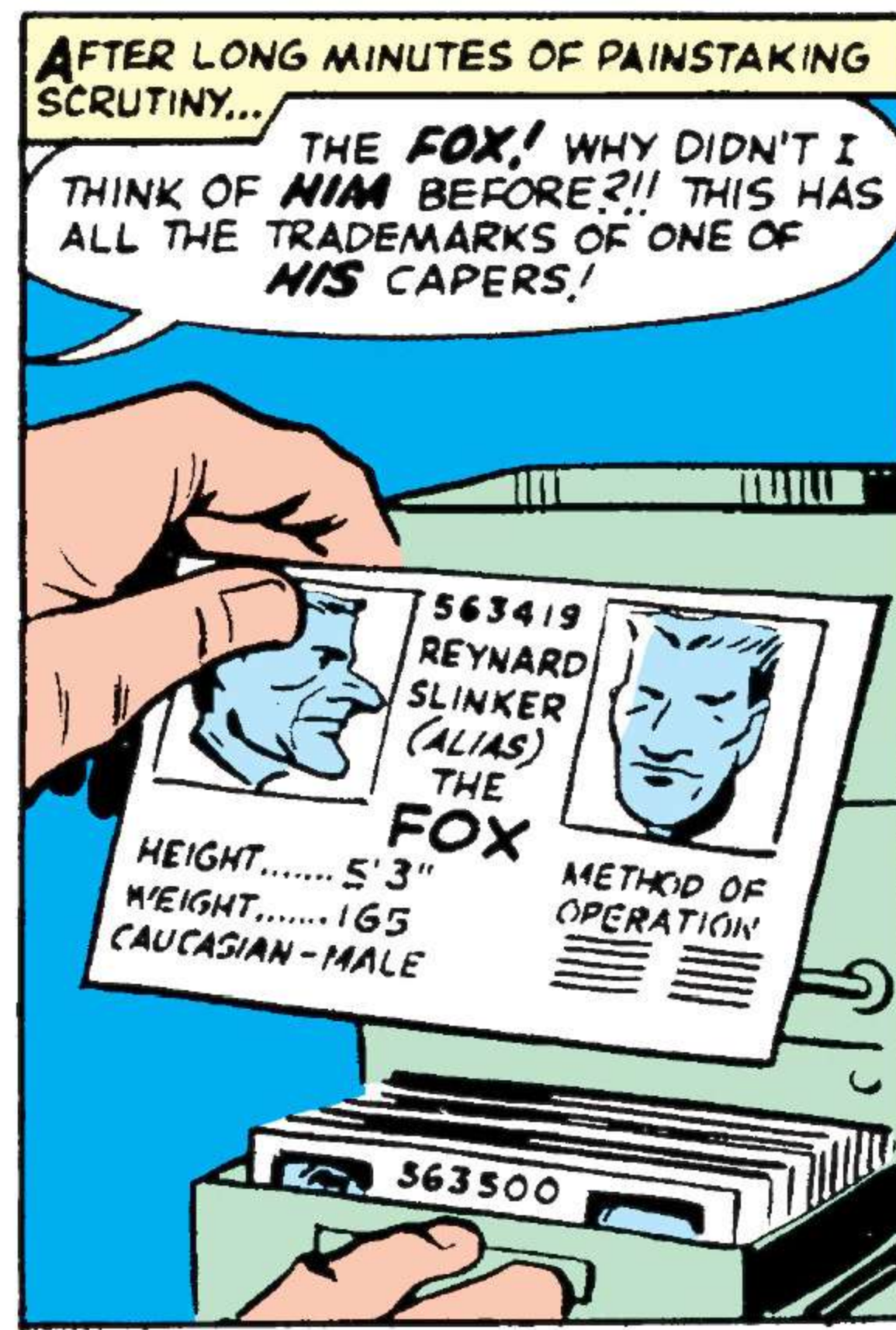


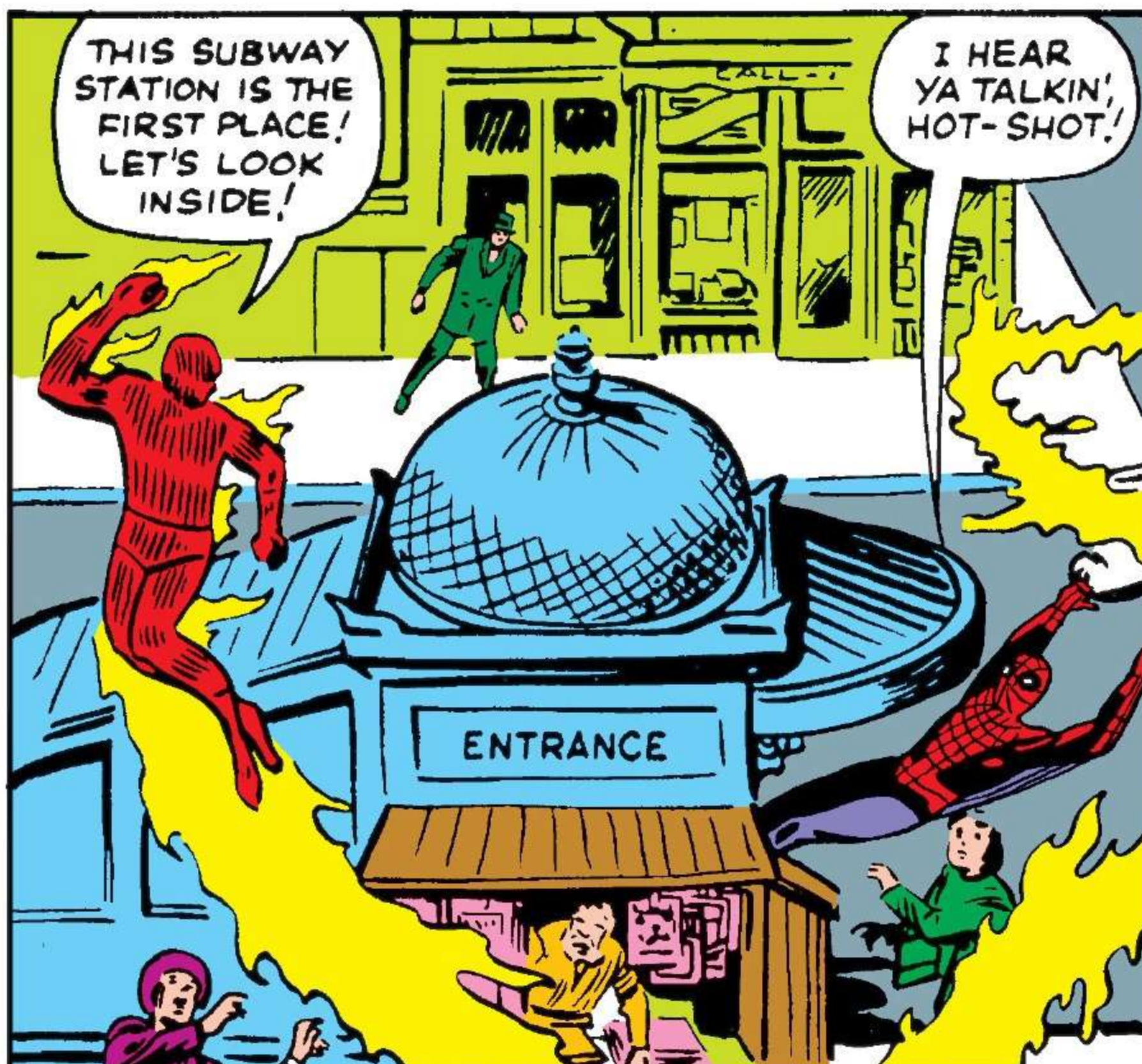
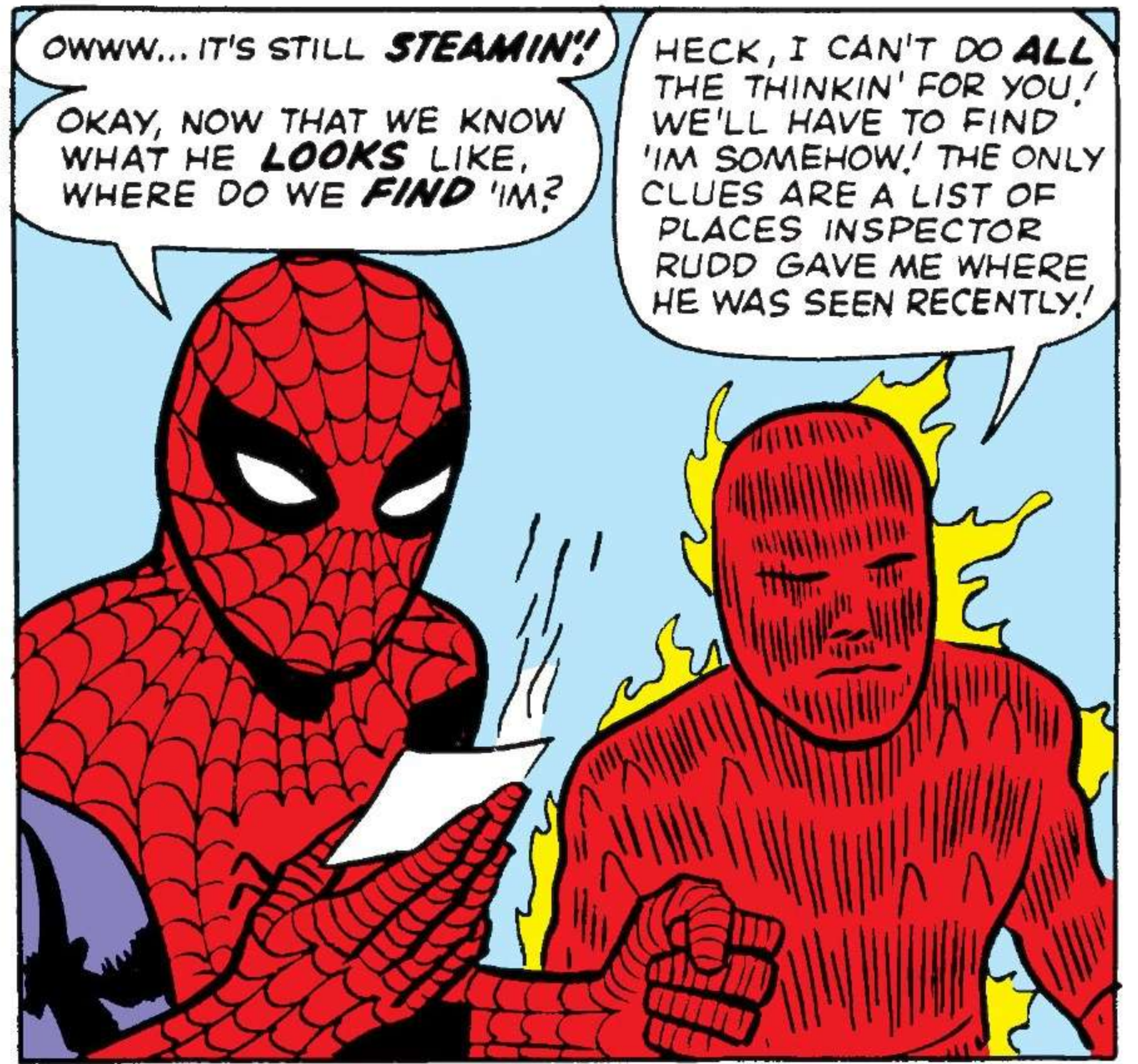
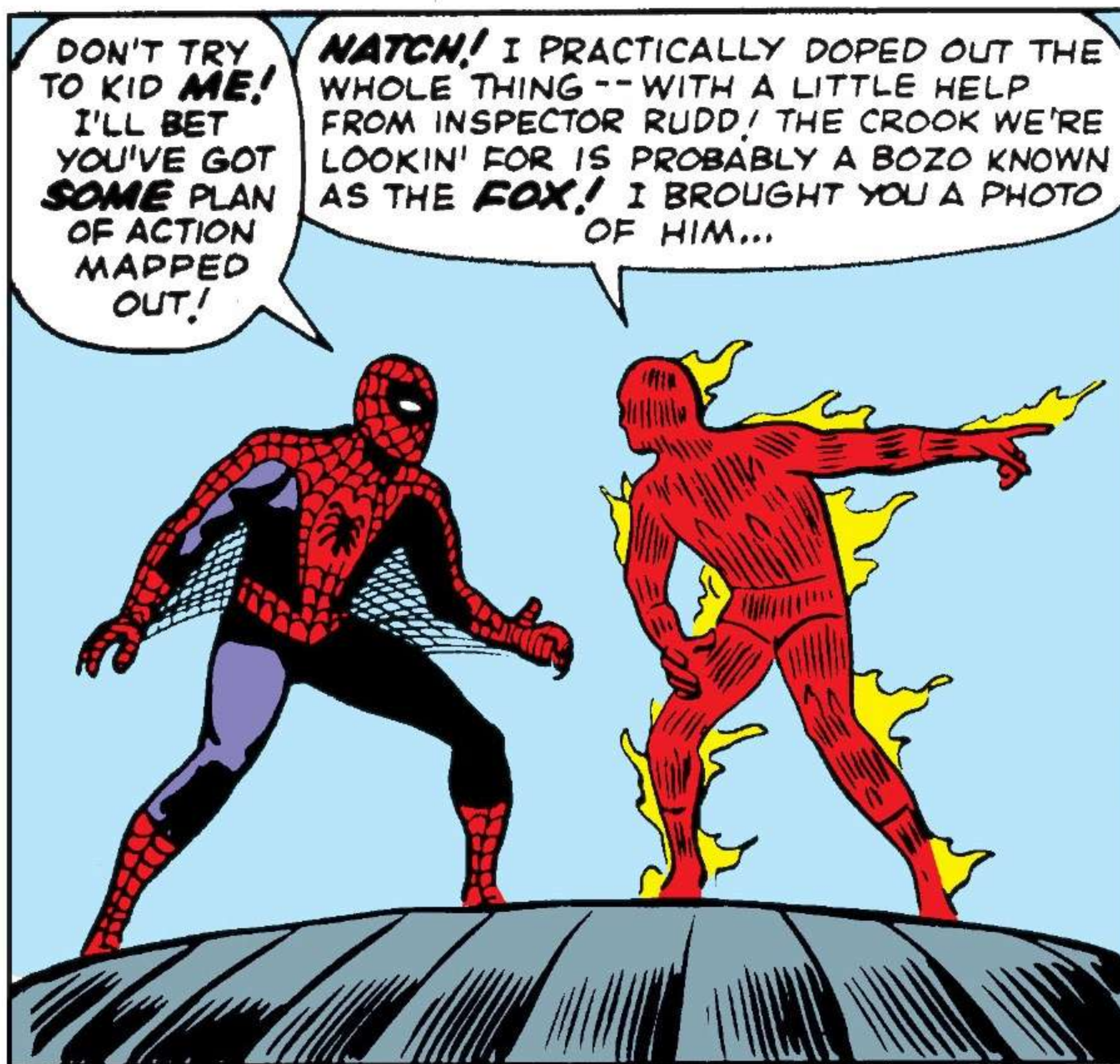
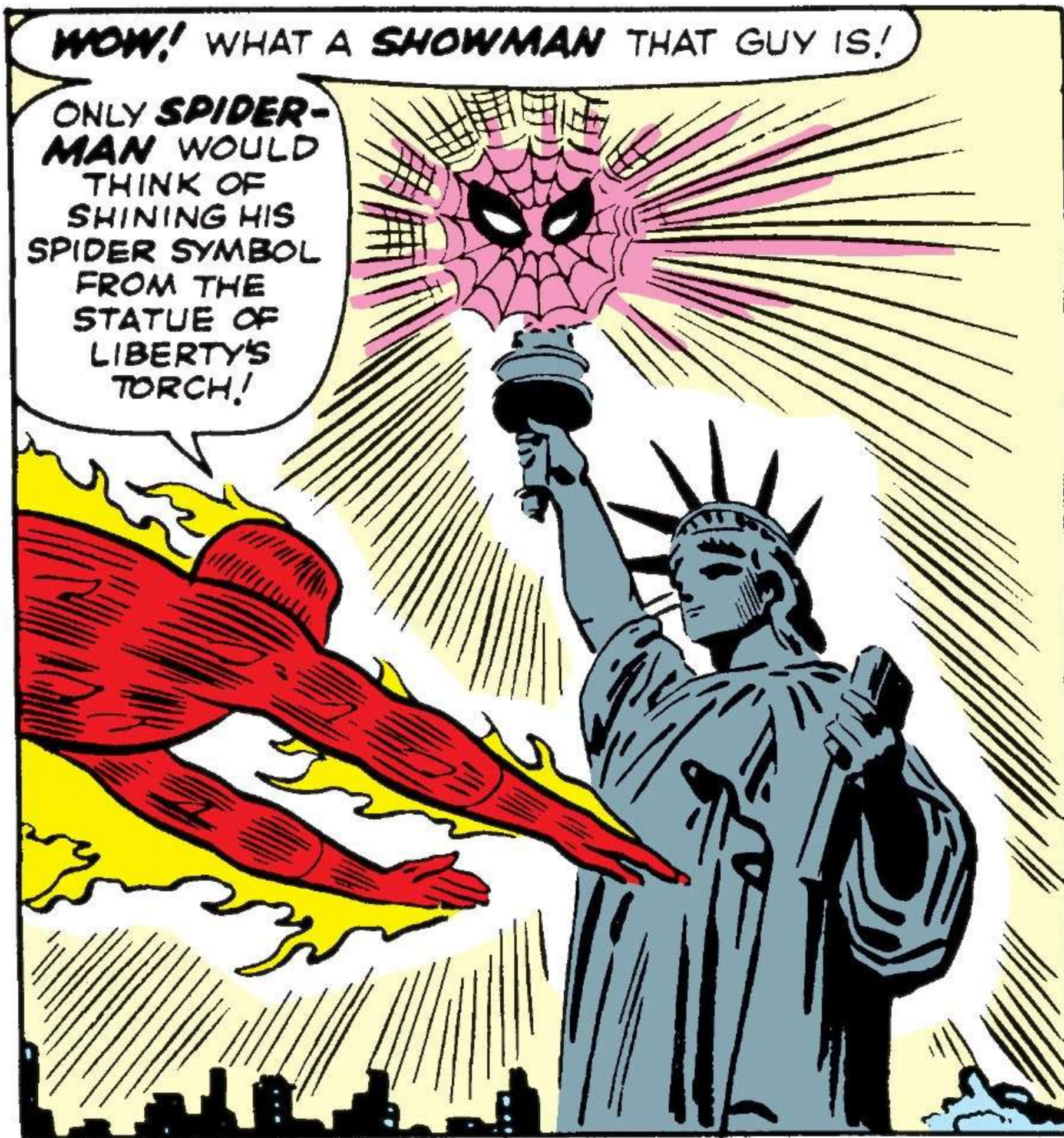
CAN YA TIE **THAT!** HE CALLED **ME** ALL THE THINGS I WAS CALLIN' **HIM!** MAYBE THE COSTUMED CLOWN REALLY **IS** INNOCENT!

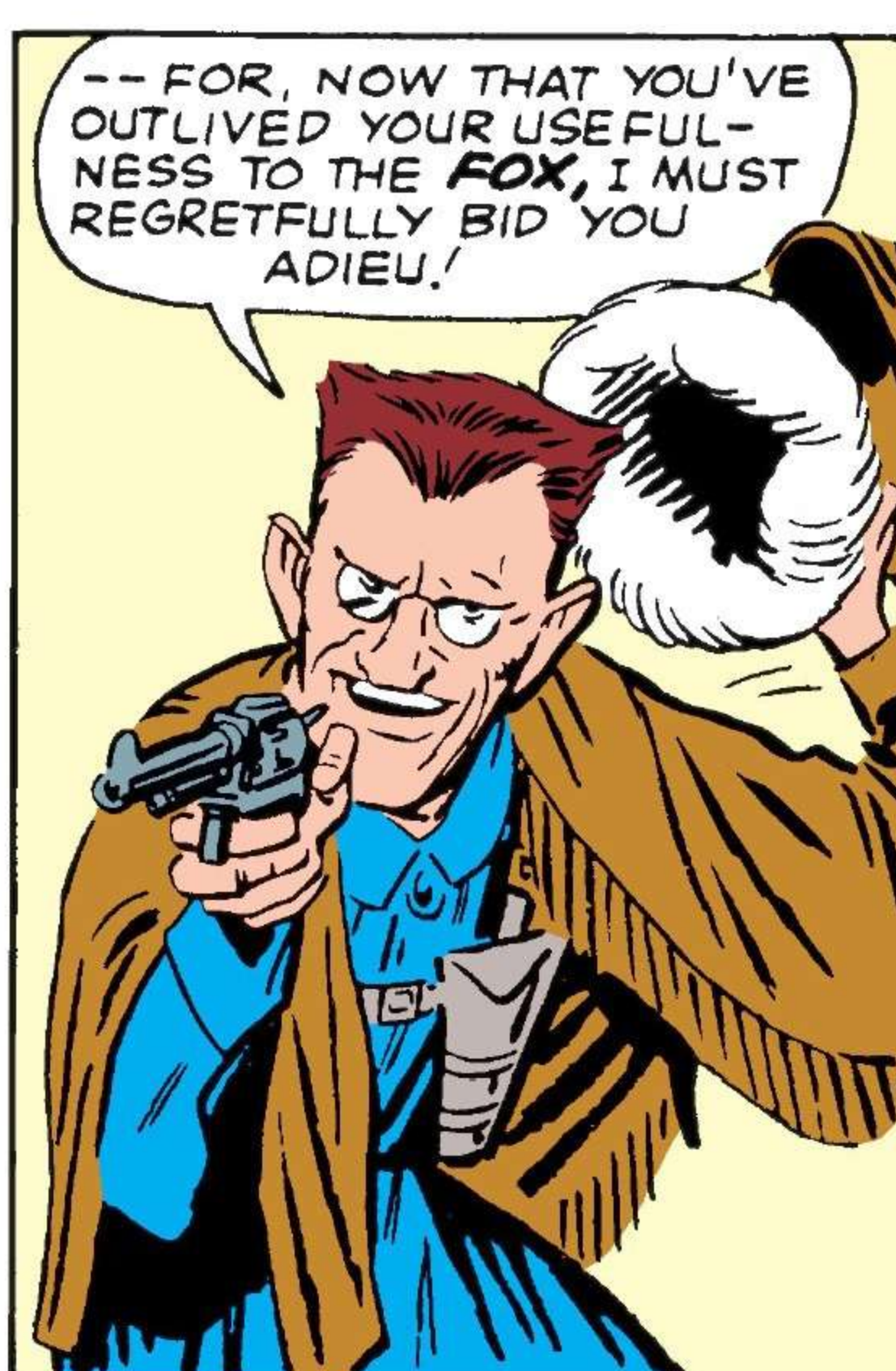
WELL, I'LL BUST OUTTA **HERE** EASY ENOUGH! ALL I NEED IS TO INCREASE MY BODY HEAT TILL IT REACHES COSMIC BLAST INTENSITY, AND THEN...



SO MUCH FOR THAT ICY WEB! NOW MY NEXT STEP IS TO ASK THE POLICE TO CALL OFF THE HUNT FOR **SPIDER-MAN** UNTIL I'VE HAD A CHANCE TO CONTACT HIM AGAIN...









OKAY, HOT STUFF, LET'S GO!
THE **FOX** HEADED THIS WAY!



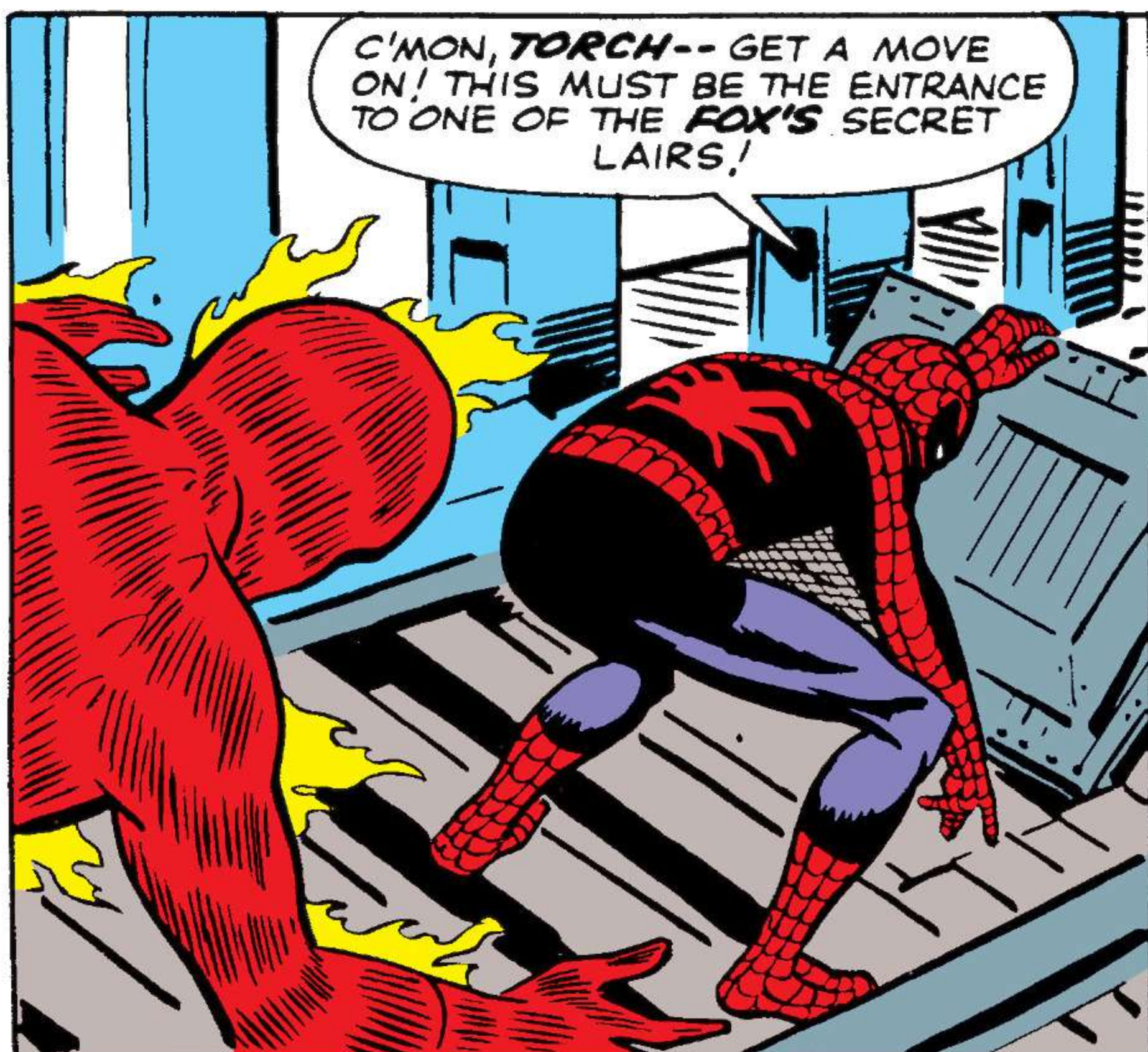
MOVE,
CHOWDERHEAD!!
THERE'S A **TRAIN**
BEHIND YOU!

WAIT!
WHAT WAS
THAT THING
I JUST RAN
PAST--ON
THE TRACKS
BELOW??

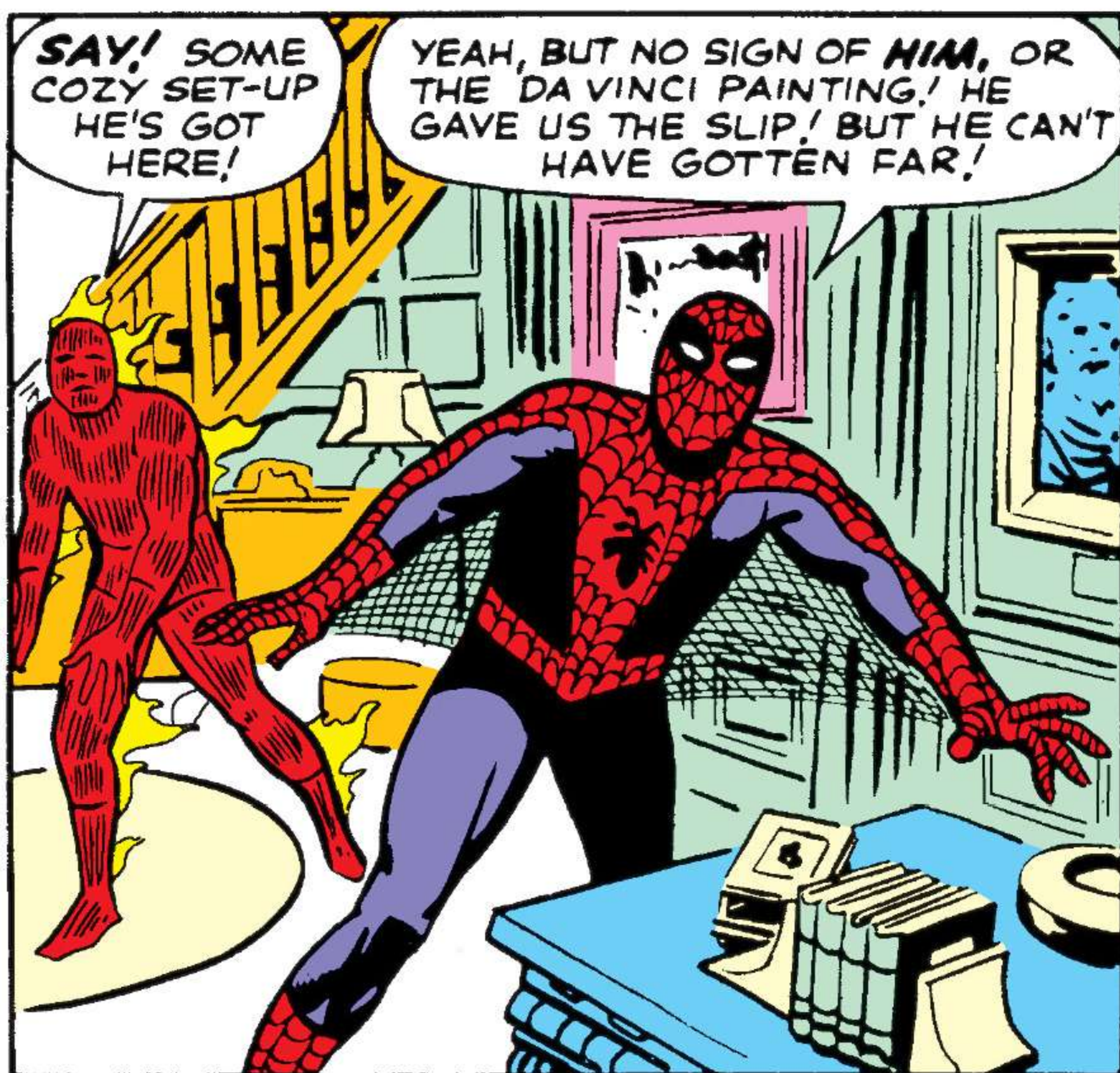


HEY!
STOP **SCARIN'**
ME THAT WAY,
WILLYA?!!

I WAS **RIGHT!**
IT'S SOME
SORT OF A
TRAP DOOR!

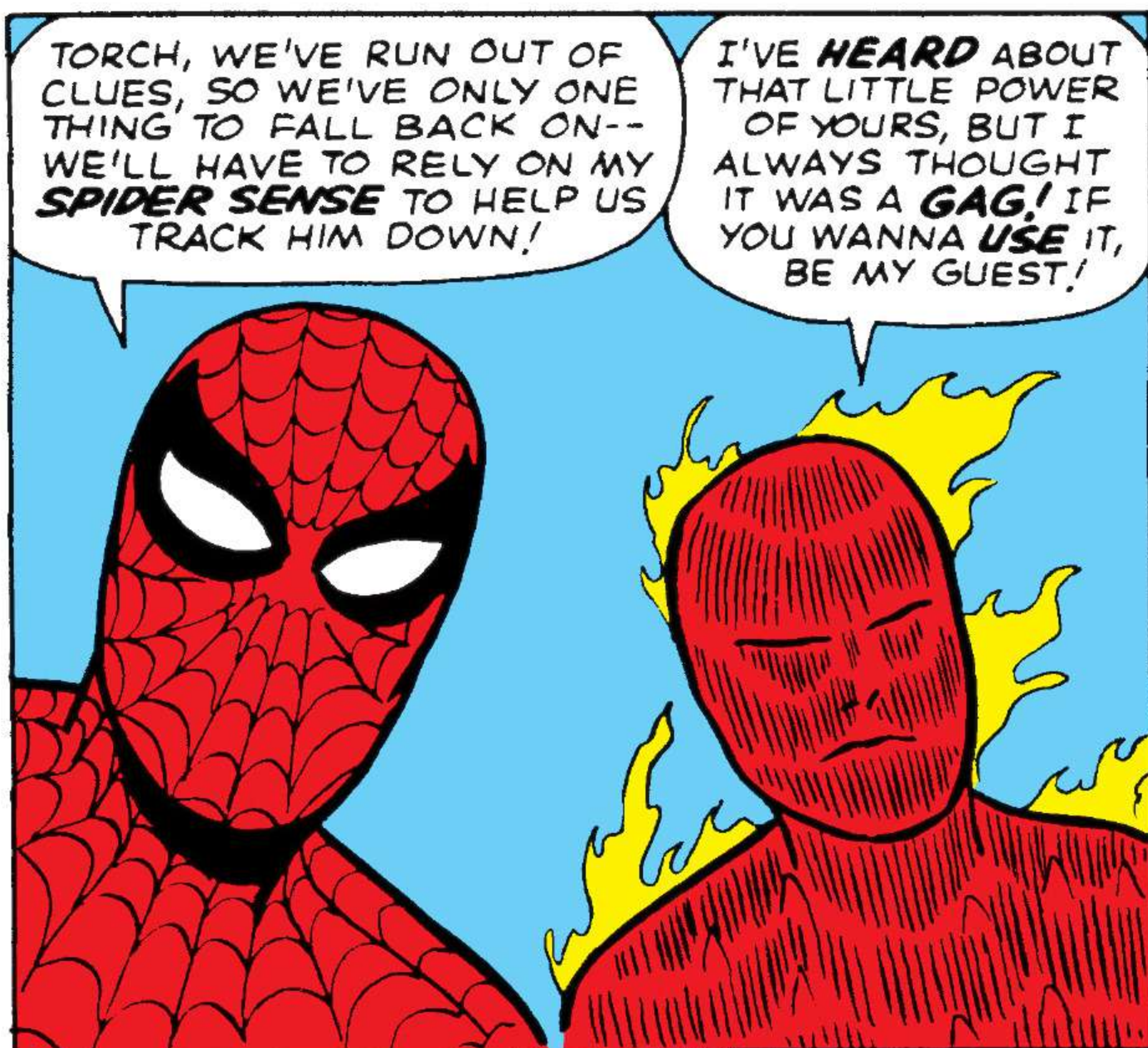


C'MON, **TORCH**-- GET A MOVE
ON! THIS MUST BE THE ENTRANCE
TO ONE OF THE **FOX'S** SECRET
LAIRS!



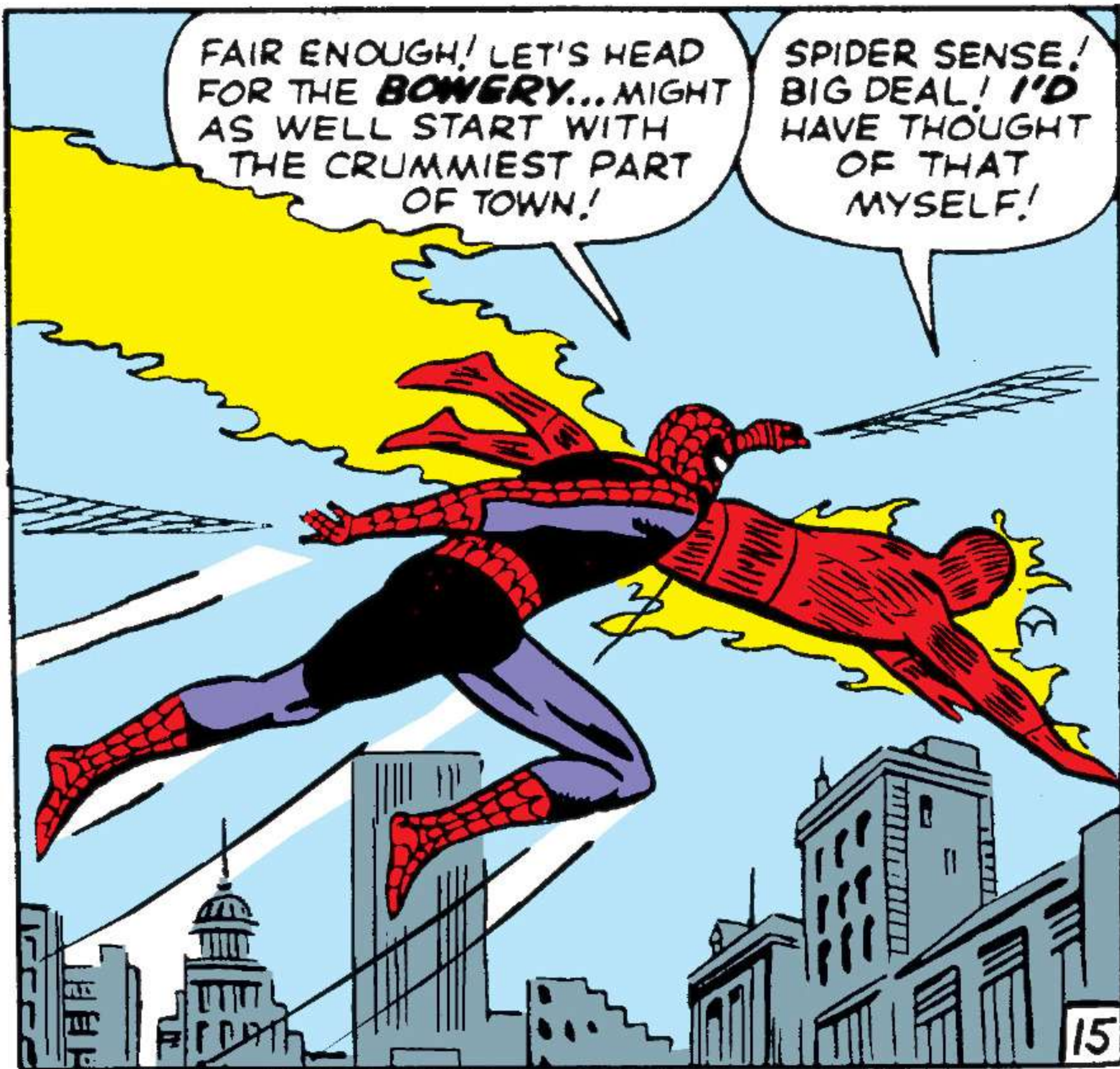
SAY! SOME
COZY SET-UP
HE'S GOT
HERE!

YEAH, BUT NO SIGN OF **HIM**, OR
THE DA VINCI PAINTING! HE
GAVE US THE SLIP! BUT HE CAN'T
HAVE GOTTEN FAR!



TORCH, WE'VE RUN OUT OF
CLUES, SO WE'VE ONLY ONE
THING TO FALL BACK ON--
WE'LL HAVE TO RELY ON MY
SPIDER SENSE TO HELP US
TRACK HIM DOWN!

I'VE **HEARD** ABOUT
THAT LITTLE POWER
OF YOURS, BUT I
ALWAYS THOUGHT
IT WAS A **GAG!** IF
YOU WANNA **USE** IT,
BE MY GUEST!



FAIR ENOUGH! LET'S HEAD
FOR THE **BOWERY**...MIGHT
AS WELL START WITH
THE CRUMMIEST PART
OF TOWN!

SPIDER SENSE!
BIG DEAL! I'D
HAVE THOUGHT
OF THAT
MYSELF!

